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Cyprus to release three PLO fighters

NICOSIA (AFP) — Three Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters, including a Briton, serving life sentences in a Cyprus prison for the 1985 killing of three Israelis are to be released and deported, prison officials said Wednesday. Ian Michael Davidson, Abdul Karim Al Khalifa and Khaled Al Khatib were to be "released immediately" after President Glafcos Clerides reduced their sentences, Nicosia Prison Director Andreas Anastasiades told AFP. He did not say when exactly the deportation would take place but said Mr. Davidson and the two Palestinians were free to choose their destination. The three were sentenced to life in prison for the September 25, 1985 killing of two Israeli men and a woman abroad a yacht tied up at the marina in the southern Cyprus port city of Larnaca. The assailants said the three Israelis were members of the Israeli secret service Mossad. Israel claimed the victims were innocent tourists. In retaliation for the attack, Israeli warplanes bombed the Tunis headquarters of the PLO, killing more than 70 people.

...Destruction of nuclear arms

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — China called Wednesday in the U.N. General Assembly for the total destruction of all nuclear arms, and an early start to talks for a nuclear test ban treaty. And German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said his country wants a permanent U.N Security Council seat but the Third World's voice must be heard in any reform of the U.N. decision-making body. "Now that the conventions banning biological and chemical weapons have been concluded, we deem it high time that the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons were put on the agenda," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said. "If however, complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons cannot be achieved soon enough, well then, let the nuclear powers reach an agreement not to be the first to use nuclear weapons as well as not to use the same against non-nuclear weapon states or nuclear-free zones," Mr. Qian said. Earlier Mr. Kinkel said that "Germany is... prepared to assume responsibility as a permanent member of the Security Council. "Germany wants to and will be a driving force in efforts to strengthen the United Nations."

Election wagon builds steam after a whistlestop

Majali urges speedy process

AMMAN (J.T.) — One day after announcing that the parliamentary elections would be held on schedule, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali urged the Interior Ministry to speed up the distribution of voter cards so that all eligible citizens will be able to vote on Nov. 8.

During a visit to the Interior Ministry Wednesday where he met with Minister Salameh Hammad and senior staff, Dr. Majali said every effort should be exerted and absolute cooperation should be displayed among the concerned authorities to facilitate the procedures to ensure fair free elections. He added that the authorities should maintain neutrality in an atmosphere of democracy and in compliance with His Majesty King Hussein's directives.

Referring to the ministry of interior's role in the coming elections, the prime minister said that it ought to explain to the public the importance of participating in the elections because, he said, such participation represents the embodiment of democracy.

With regard to the ministry's administration, the prime minister said that employees should adopt decentralised administration and allow for direct public contact with officials who, in turn, should listen to and try to respond to the various requests and grievances.

Minister Hammad briefed Dr. Majali on the ministry's preparations of updated voter lists for the coming elections.

Mr. Hammad also explained the procedures to be followed in the distribution of voter cards through several of committees at assigned voting centres and also the creation of committees that will count the votes in the various constituencies.

According to the Election Law, government officials planning to contest the polls had until Wednesday, Sept. 29 to submit their resignations.

The law also stipulates that campaigning for the elections starts from Oct. 14 through Nov. 7, the day preceding election day.

Abdul Salam Al Majali

Jordan opts for democracy in vote decision

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

AMMAN — King Hussein's decision to hold Jordan's multi-party elections on time depsite the PLO-Israeli deal was a vote for democracy over partisan politics, diplomats and analysts said.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said on Tuesday hours before a deadline to call a delay in the Nov. 8 elections that the first multi-party polls in almost four decades would go ahead as scheduled.

The decision stunned politicians convinced the secret PLO-Israeli agreement signed in Washington dictated a delay.

"Those who said the elections would be postponed were speculating and they were wrong," Dr. Majali told Reuters.

Speculation had been fuelled by King Hussein's comments on Saturday that he was considering a delay in the first multi-party election since 1956 to avoid the campaign becoming a referendum on the PLO-Israeli peace pact.

Jordanian political analysts said they did not know what tilted the balance in the few days the King held consultations and retreated to his Aqaba winter palace on the Red Sea, a stone's throw from Israel.

Israeli media claimed the King met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin there but the palace denied the report. Mr. Rabin also denied the report.

Diplomats and analysts who expected a delay said the King appeared to have weighed possible harm to Jordan's democratic image and further internal rifts against pressure from officials and political parties to postpone the vote.

Many East Bank politicians wanted to wait until it became clear how many of Jordan's citizens would return to the West Bank as Palestinians begin to establish self-rule in the occupied territories.

"The King would have been placating one constituency at the expense of the other (by delaying elections)," a diplomat said.

The Western envoy said postponement would have hurt the aid-dependent Kingdom's image abroad. The elections have been heralded as the cornerstone of what Jordan calls a beacon of democracy in the Arab World.

Businessmen said delay could have hurt the economy by giving risk-shy investors more reason to wait until they saw what kind of parliament was elected.

"There is a sense of relief in both camps now that this whole debate is over," said Mustafa Hamarneh, head of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The convening of elections on time is a victory for democracy," said Taleb Awad, director of the private Al Urdun Al Jadid (New Jordan) Research Centre. "It proves that there is no way to strengthen democracy except through more democracy."

Politicians and commentators, many of whom had leaned towards postponement,

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Polls on schedule a lifesaver for many

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The announcement Tuesday that the parliamentary elections would be held as scheduled on Nov. 8 came as a lifesaver for many aspirants to the legislative body who had staked much of their capital — political, financial and otherwise — in preparing for the campaign.

By the same token, it also caught several political groups, including the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF), totally by surprise in that they had all but dropped efforts to garner voters ahead of the Kingdom's first multi-party elections in 36 years.

This has encouraged some of the rival candidates to take advantage of the relative inaction of others and cover more ground than some of the organised groups.

"I was very disappointed as I thought it was a lost case," said a former minister who intends to seek one of Amman's seats in the Lower House. "It was more ironic since I was sure that I would have whipped my rivals."

"Now that the elections are going ahead as planned, I think they (opponents) will have to do a lot of catching up to do," added the ex-minister, who, like all other potential candidates did not want to be named.

"They (rivals) were smug that they had 'inside' information that the elections were going to be delayed, but now let us see who knew better," added the ex-minister.

Several million dinars were already sunk into the election hole by the time strong signs had appeared that Jordan might not have elections this year.

Some candidates had already spent the bulk of their campaign funds on gearing up for the elections when the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement struck the Jordanian political scene and raised the possibility that the polls could be postponed.

The question of delaying elections was raised as early as the fourth week of August with the revelation of the Israel-PLO accord, but few people gave it attention until His Majesty King Hussein himself went on record as saying the issue was under serious study.

That was enough for many to take it for granted that the postponement was a foregone conclusion.

While many had lamented their potential losses, others who were a little bit more prudent consoled themselves by not have gone as far as the others, by printing posters

(Continued on page 10)

Politicians absorb new course of events

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political parties Wednesday expressed their surprise at the news that parliamentary elections will be held on time. It was the more conservative centrist and right of centre parties who were caught off guard by Wednesday's announcement.

Several conservative and right-wing parties had argued that holding elections among an undefined constituency may result in the election of an "unrepresentative parliament." This parliament, the proponents of delay believed, would be chosen either by people who would no longer be Jordanians — future citizens of a Palestinian entity in the occupied territories — or people who will vote on the single issue of Palestinian-Israeli accord signed Sept. 13 in Washington.

Al Ahd Party Secretary-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, one of several prominent politicians who had spoken in favour of a postponement of the elections, said Wednesday: "We were very surprised by the decision."

Having cited the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as leading to future demographic changes in Jordan, Mr. Majali and other Jordanian politicians, including former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, had pressed the government for a postponement.

"We had urged for a delay because of the internal effects of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and (we) believed that as a result of demographic changes arising from his agreement there would be a change in the internal status quo," Mr. Majali told the Jordan Times.

"It may well be that the decisionmakers have studied this issue from a broader, long-term point of view and thus decided to hold these elections on time," Mr. Majali said this party had put its electioneering programme on hold because of what seemed to be a certain postponement of the elections.

His Majesty King Hussein and other senior officials had made signals that a postponement was possible. Thus, according to Mr. Majali, Al Ahd is now holding emergency sessions that will soon result in the publication of a list of candidates.

The Party for Progress and Justice, a liberal right-of-centre party whose founder Adnan Abu Odeh is Jordan's ambassador to the U.N., was also caught off-guard. "We had supported a delay because of the possible internal effects the Arafat-Rabin deal would have on the way people voted," said Mofudi Humeimat, the party's spokesman.

(Continued on page 10)

Yeltsin tightens screws on rebels

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin turned up the pressure Wednesday on diehard deputies barricaded inside the legislative building, demanding their surrender by next Monday but also initiating talks with parliament leaders.

In a statement carried by news agencies, the Russian government, backed by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzkov, set a deadline of Oct. 4 for the evacuation of the parliament building by rebellious lawmakers and warned their refusal to leave could "lead to serious consequences."

Elite paratroopers reinforced the police who surrounded parliament, and earlier Wednesday riot police wielding shields and batons chased away some 300 parliament supporters who had been waiting peacefully outside.

Police chased the crowd into a nearby train station.

Police on Tuesday had given lawmakers and their supporters holding the parliament building a 24-hour ultimatum to surrender their weapons and leave. But the government extended the deadline to Monday.

The government statement said all those left peacefully before the deadline would not face prosecution.

The Interior Ministry also said a senior police officer died of injuries Wednesday after he was pushed in front of a car by anti-Yeltsin protesters during a clash with police. Vladimir Reshtuk was the third person to be killed in connection with the parliament crisis.

Snow and rain drenched Moscow as police huddled in overcoats stopped anyone entering parliament.

Militia forces clash with pro-Communist demonstrators in an effort to push them away from barricades surrounding the Russian Parliament building in Moscow. The Parliament building has been sealed off by special militia and army troops (AFP photo)

Libya accepts Scotland trial

Combined agency dispatches

TRIPOLI — Libya agreed Wednesday to a trial in Scotland for two Libyans wanted for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing but said it was up to the two men to decide if they wanted to surrender to the Scottish authorities.

"We are not against having them go before the Scottish legal authorities and we are encouraging them to do so," the foreign ministry said in a reversal of its previous contention that the pair could not get a fair trial in Britain.

The Foreign Office reacted cautiously to the announcement, which came just two days ahead of a deadline for Tripoli to hand over the pair or face further U.N. sanctions.

"In principle, we welcome any report which seems to recognise that a trial should take place in Scotland," a Foreign Office spokesman said in London.

"(But) we have to wait and see," the spokesman said. "We need to have more elements before any comment Libya has not been in touch with us and we have not had any communication with them on the matter."

An air traffic and arms embargo was imposed on Libya in April 1992 for its refusal to hand over the suspects and Tripoli could face further U.N. Security Council sanctions if it fails to extradite them by Friday.

Foreign Affairs Minister Omar Al Muntasser asked Dr. Ghali in New York on Tuesday for an extension of the Oct. 1 deadline but the U.N. secretary general rejected the request.

The United States welcomed the report that Libya has agreed to a trial in Scotland.

"If that is true, that would be a positive development," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, adding that U.S. officials were still assessing the report.

The Libyan statement, came just two days ahead of a deadline for Tripoli to hand over the pair or face further U.N. sanctions.

Libya had previously rejected repeated U.S. and British demands for the extradition of the pair.

President Bill Clinton reiterated his call Monday before the U.N. General Assembly to bring those responsible for the bombing to justice.

The men's Libyan lawyer, Ibrahim Legwell, said it would take a while for him and other defence lawyers to meet and decide what advice to give their clients.

He said he had not consulted them for the last few days but would probably do so in the next couple of days.

Britain and the United States have accused the men, Abdel Basset Ali Al Megrabi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, of planting explosives aboard the Pan Am airliners which blew up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people.

If Libya does not act by Friday, the three Western countries which set the deadline — Britain, France and the United States — will apply to the U.N. Security Council to ... ose new forms of sanctions against Libya.

Rabin says autonomy deal a priority, 'cautions' Syria

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has put making the Palestinian autonomy deal work as his top priority, and in an interview published Wednesday he warned Syria not to spoil it.

In an interview published in the daily Davar, Mr. Rabin said he expected Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to keep in check the Palestinian and Muslim groups operating from Syrian territory that have vowed to torpedo the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

"One is asking oneself, 'does he (Assad) really want peace?' If so, then he mustn't disturb the PLO, and he mustn't disturb us in the implementation of the agreement," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying.

Israel has signalled recently that it is in no rush to reach an agreement with the Syrians, preferring to focus on implementing autonomy in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin apparently believes it is easier to win Israeli public support for peace agreements if he goes one step at a time and does not confront the Israelis with withdrawal on too many fronts at once.

Syria demands that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights it occupied in 1967. Israel wants Syria to detail its idea of peace before the extent of Israeli withdrawal can be negotiated.

Asked whether his positions towards Syria have hardened since the signing of the agreement with the PLO, Mr. Rabin told Davar: "This is not a hardening, just making some order in the implementation. We have reached an agreement with the Palestinians and in my view the most important thing is to prove that it can be carried out."

Details need to be worked out first for Palestinian autonomy that is to begin in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The target date for the start of Israeli troop withdrawal from those areas is Dec. 13.

At the same time, Israel will transfer authorities in five fields, including taxation, education and health care, to Palestinians in the rest of the West Bank. By July, general elections are to be held for a Palestinian council that is to administer all of the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin said in Wednesday's interview that he hoped the two sides would meet in the region to flesh out the details of the Gaza-Jericho autonomy, while negotiations on other issues such as elections would continue in Washington.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said Tuesday the PLO preferred to continue all negotiations in Washington, at least in the first stage.

Syria said Wednesday it was not in a hurry to make peace with Israel if peace did not mean Israel returning all occupied Arab territory.

"Syria believes time is on the Arabs' side so we need not hurry for a settlement which will not restore the Arabs' usurped rights," the ruling party newspaper Al Baath said.

"Here we should cite a quotation from Hafez Al Assad in which he said future generations would be able to restore the Arabs' rights if our generation could not," added the newspaper.

But Al Baath, which is published by the Baath Party, said this did not mean Syria would abandon the Middle East peace process.

Security was extremely tight around the auditorium which was full to capacity with over 800 people.

Later, in a question-and-answer session after his address, Mr. Peres denied Israel was trading land for peace. "We didn't give up any piece of land. Gaza is not a piece of land but a community of people."

He said that 800,000 Palestinians lived in Gaza, half of them in refugee camps.

"Gaza is a shame on our map and we wish to see the people there have a different life. Let the Palestinians handle their own destiny."

Asked about the future status of Jerusalem, Mr. Peres said "the Arabs never made Jerusalem their Capitol. When Arabs pray they face Mecca, but Jerusalem is first in our politics and religion.

"It will remain united, the capital of Israel and under Israeli sovereignty," he said.

"It is our responsibility to safeguard the holy places of Christians, Muslims and Jews."

In Princeton, New Jersey, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said now that Israel has signed an accord with the PLO, the Jewish state is looking to build a new prosperity in the Middle East.

Outlining his view of the new Middle East, he told an audience at Princeton University, "let's make the promised land one for all the people who live there."

He said cooperation with Israel's Arab neighbours in political economic and social areas was essential. "Let's get rid of negative expressions wars, the arms race, oversized armies and systems with censorship and boycotts."

Mr. Peres, who signed the historic accord with the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13, addressed the United Nations on Monday.

On Tuesday he was heckled when he arrived at the university by a handful of Jewish protesters chanting "not an inch and "Peres is a traitor."

In other developments:

— Israel will build a road to bypass the West Bank town of Jericho, where Palestinian autonomy starts on Oct. 13, military chief of staff General

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians protest arrest of 'Black Panthers' leader

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) suspended a recruitment drive for a Palestinian police following the arrest on Wednesday of a top military commander of Fateh, the main PLO faction, Palestinian officials said.

"We have decided to call off all celebrations and the recruitment of Palestinian policemen following the arrest of Ahmad Awad Ali Kamil," said Ziyad Abu Ziyad, an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Abu Ziyad said that Mr. Kamil, 31, a member of Fateh's "Black Panthers" military wing who has been on the run for three years, was arrested at dawn Wednesday in the Kabatia refugee camp on the occupied West Bank.

An Israeli military spokesman confirmed Mr. Kamil's arrest and said that five other members of the Black Panthers were detained along with him.

Mr. Kamil was wanted by the Israeli authorities in connection with the murder of suspected Palestinian collaborators and attacks on Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

But Mr. Abu Ziyad told a news conference at Orient House, the East Jerusalem headquarters for the Palestinian delegation, that Fateh guerrillas were being harassed by Israeli troops despite agreeing to a ceasefire.

"We believe there is a Gulf between the new political situation and the harassment of Fateh fighters by the Israeli army, even though they have announced that they would not carry out any more attacks," he said.

PKK threatens to intensify war against Turkey tourism

MASNAA, Lebanon (Agencies) — The leader of Turkey's separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has said the PKK will step up "the war" against foreign tourism and firms.

"We will develop the campaign against tourism because tourism is the main source of income for Turkey, which is at war against us," PKK chief Abdullah Ocalan said.

"Our threat is very clear. If one day 50 people die we will not be responsible. We have no other choice," said Mr. Ocalan, known as Apo, at a press conference at the Lebanese-Syrian border post of Masnaa.

"We will attack foreign tourists, resorts, hotels and holiday villages, including foreign companies and investments," he said in Turkish. His remarks were translated into English by an interpreter.

The PKK has attacked and kidnapped a number of tourists in recent months. Over the summer a total of 24 foreigners were injured in six attacks blamed by Ankara on the PKK.

Earlier this month the rebels released seven tourists whom they had held since August, according to the Turkish Foreign Ministry. Shortly afterwards five more tourists were reported kidnapped.

Desite the renewed threat against tourists, Mr. Ocalan renewed an offer for a ceasefire if the Turkish authorities agree to open negotiations with the PKK.

On June 8 Mr. Ocalan announced the end of a unilateral ceasefire and threatened to strike tourist targets across Turkey in an "allout war."

He then said that the ceasefire, which he had announced on March 17, was over "because the Turkish government has rejected the hand we offered and pursued its military campaign in a bid to destroy us."

Since 1984 the PKK has led an armed rebellion in mainly Kurdish southeast Turkey, which has left more than 6,000 dead in Turkey and some 2,000 PKK guerrillas killed in northern Iraq.

Mr. Ocalan said the guerrillas planned to double their strength to 30,000 fighters by next March.

"The war has reached the point of no return ...there is genocide going on," Mr. Ocalan said.

"The (Turkish) chief of staff said they will wipe us out by next March but they cannot," he said. "We are opposing this policy with tremendous resistance."

"I have never been as confident as today ...when we started there was no one talking about the Kurdish identity but now there is," said Mr. Ocalan. He said the PKK enjoyed strong popular support.

He accused Turkey's armed forces of genocide and of using napalm and chemical weapons against rebels in mountains near Mount Agri (Ararat), a frequent target of Turkish air raids.

"If Turkey defeats the PKK it will have succeeded in another genocide ...the PKK is not just a national movement trying to establish its homeland, it is trying to stop genocide, Mr. Ocalan said.

The PKK has mounted few big assaults on Turkish military posts since it lost important bases in northern Iraq a year ago, but has shown this year that it can still strike on a smaller scale in a dozen eastern and southeastern provinces.

Blast hits Cypriot hotel

A dynamite blast wrecked a jeep and smashed windows outside a tourist hotel in the Turkish-occupied sector of Cyprus, police said Tuesday.

The PKK in the Greek sector of the divided island said Sunday's attack was carried out by "Kurdish patriots" wanting to damage Turkish and Turkish Cypriot tourism.

The blast blew apart a hired jeep and damaged other cars parked outside the Bogaz hotel near Famagusta but caused no casualties, police said.

If the PKK's claim is true, it would be the first time the Kurds have carried the campaign to Cyprus.

A bomb blast which officials blamed on the PKK wounded 27 people including 12 foreigners in Turkey's Mediterranean resort of Antalya in June.

"There is no such organisation as the PKK in (north Cyprus). But such an organisation exists in the Kurdistan Solidarity Association which is being fostered by the Greek Cypriot administration in the south," a senior police official said.

Two people detained for questioning over the blast had been released, he added.

Turkish security sources say Greek Cypriots allow PKK rebels to operate freely on their side of the island.

Arafat, Israelis hold talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat on Tuesday met with an Israeli delegation visiting his Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis to follow up on the landmark peace accord between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

PLO officials, who refused to be identified, said the delegation included three members of the Mapam Party, which backs the peace plan signed on Sept. 13 in Washington.

The delegation was headed by Hanan Erez, the chairman of the party. It included Walid Izadek, Israel's deputy minister of agriculture, and Latif Dori, a Mapam activist.

Before the meeting, Mr. Erez told reporters that he would focus on "ways of cementing the peace accord," granting the Palestinians limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Erez described the accord as "very good," and said he was "very pleased to be in Tunis and meet with Abu Ammar," referring to Mr. Arafat by his codename.

Mr. Dori said the team was to have more talks Wednesday with senior PLO officials, including Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo and Mr. Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif.

Mr. Dori said Mr. Arafat and the PLO officials "are brothers with whom we should we cooperate."

The delegation was the second to publicly visit Tunis since the signing of the peace accord.

An Israeli foreign ministry team discussed with Tunisian officials last week preparations for a conference on Palestinian refugees which Tunis will host next month.

Hout may attend meeting

A leading critic of the PLO's peace pact with Israel said Tuesday he was considering attending a Palestine Central Council meeting to discuss the accord.

Shafiq Al Hout, who quit this month as PLO representative to Lebanon, told Reuters he would decide whether to attend the October 10 meeting in Tunis when invitations were issued.

"But I am seriously considering going. It is my duty to go and explain my position," said Mr. Hout, a member of the 100-strong Central Council and the Palestine National Council.

Palestinian leaders will meet this week in Tunis to prepare for further negotiations with Israel on assuming local rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, officials said.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a senior Palestinian negotiator, said the PLO has invited seven leaders from the West Bank to join other leaders in Tunis for the talks.

They will discuss forming a delegation for the talks with Israel, the transfer of power to Palestinians and the addition of leaders from the occupied territories to PLO organisations.

Dr. Khatib said the Tunis meeting would discuss expanding main PLO bodies, including the decision-making Executive Committee and the Central Council, which supervises activities of the Executive Committee.

Chief negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi, his deputy Saeb Erekat and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi were among the seven to attend the Tunis meeting. Faisal Al Husseini, the head of the delegation, is also to attend.

Civilians principal target in chaotic Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — Amnesty International Wednesday accused all three factions in the civil war in southern Sudan of rape, torture and destroying entire villages, and said most of those killed are civilians.

The report by the London-based human rights group blamed Sudan's military and two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) equally for massacres and other atrocities that have forced three million people to flee their homes.

"The Sudan government and rival factions of the SPLA have between them created a humanitarian disaster by waging war on rural villagers and herders," Amnesty International said.

"The flagrant violation of human rights ...has created famine and dependency on food relief. ...Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives through illness, food shortage or deliberate assault."

Southern Sudan, populated by black Christians and animists, has been at war against the Arab Muslim-dominated central government for much of the country's 37-year existence.

The current round of fighting began 10½ years ago as southerners pressed their demands for more say in government and share in development.

Throughout the decade, the once-lush southland has been wracked by drought and famine, mostly manmade. Hundreds of thousands have died.

"Although at root the war is not a religious war, bigots on all sides ...are exploiting religion, making it a significant factor in the continuing fighting," Amnesty International said.

"Rival forces have exploited ethnicity, pitting community against community. Ethnic difference has been a feature of many of the worst human rights violations. In some parts of Sudan, ethnic difference appears to have become a reason for killing."

The 29-page document, titled "The Ravages of War: Political Killings and Humanitarian Disaster," said outrages have occurred since the mid-1980s but have grown particularly horrendous since a 1991 split in the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Tribes supplied troops to each rebel faction, and the military government "exploited tribes who define themselves as Arabs by using them as proxy forces."

In one attack, Amnesty said, soldiers locked worshippers in a grass-roofed church in the south-central Nuban hills and set it afire. The priest and more than 20 members of the congregation were killed, the report said.

The report recounted other horrors:

— Administrators, school teachers, village leaders, traders are arrested by government troops and tortured in Nuba. Many "disappear" and are assumed to have been slain.

In Juba, the south's largest city, soldiers summarily execute hundreds and more than 230 "disappear."

— An estimated 2,000 people are killed by a breakaway faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in a spasm of murder in October and November 1991.

Almost all the dead are of the Dinka tribe of U.S.-educated John Garang, leader of the mainstream SPLA faction whose abuse of human rights was said to be responsible for the split in the first place.

— Last April, 18 months later, Colonel Garang's gangs seek revenge by firing rocket-propelled grenades into a U.N. feeding centre where the ethnic group of his enemies have gathered. Forty people in a food queue are killed, tens of thousands flee the camp.

— At the same time, in a nearby village, Col. Garang's people lock 18 children in a hut, set it afire and gun down the only three who escape the flames. In a village to the northeast, 36 women are charred in a cow barn and nine are clubbed to death.

Syrian paper insists on lightening Israel boycott

DAMASCUS (AP) — A leading Syrian newspaper has lashed out at Israeli calls, supported by the United States, for the lifting of the Arab boycott against the Jewish state.

The government-run Tishrin said in an editorial that Arabs, instead, should strengthen enforcement until there is a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement.

"It is not permissible to talk about halting the Arab boycott of Israel by ignoring its reasons, especially those pertaining to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories," it said.

The editorial was especially critical of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for raising the boycott issue in a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa.

"This hysterical and feverish attack against Syria is aimed at bypassing stated policies of Israel," the editorial said.

U.S.-backed peace talks between Syria and Israel have been deadlocked over the Golan Heights.

Syria insists on return of the Golan before any peace deal can be negotiated, while Israel holds that Syria outlined its [illegible] more than four decades ago to try to force Israel to give up Arab land.

Militants launch attacks before Mubarak election

ASSIUT, Egypt (Agencies) — Muslim militants on Tuesday launched two attacks in Upper Egypt, killing one police guard and wounding another, and warned of more attacks before a presidential poll next week.

An Interior Ministry statement said suspected Muslim militants killed Kamel Abdul Halim, and wounded his cousin 'Eid Abdul Halim as they guarded the Anglican church in the town of Dairout, 270 kilometres south of Cairo.

Security sources said gunmen also opened fire on two police guards in another part of the town but the guards fired back and the gunmen fled. Nobody was killed but it was not immediately clear if the same gunmen were involved.

The sources said militants put up posters in the town denouncing security raids on mosques and threatening more attacks before a referendum on Monday which is due to confirm President Hosni Mubarak in office for another six years.

"Before the referendum, Hosni Mubarak invaded the mosques of Rahma, Sabbagh, Salaam and Maftah. Security of mosques comes before security of churches or ...," said the posters.

The security sources said police in the city of Assiut had twice surrounded the Rahma mosque, controlled by militants, as they went on alert in recent days to forestall violence before the poll.

They arrested about 40 militants in the two incidents, entering the mosque at least once. Police have also surrounded other mosques in the area and may have searched [illegible] such as governmental offices, the national oil company and radio and television stations.

Mr. Mubarak, who has ruled since 1981, was chosen by Egypt's parliament in July as the only candidate in the nationwide poll.

The Interior Ministry is investing $30 million to combat Islamic extremists, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Tuesday.

The government-owned agency said the money was being poured into weapons and communications equipment to battle "new crimes against society and a spread in terrorism and extremism."

Muslim extremists seeking to overthrow the government and install Islamic rule have mainly targeted security forces recently, announcing in claims of responsibility they were avenging torture and execution of their colleagues.

More than 200 people have been killed in the past 20 months, including policemen, Coptic Christians and radicals. Fifteen militants have been hanged.

Military and state security courts are trying hundreds of extremists suspects, and security forces have rounded up thousands over the past two years. Human rights organisations have accused police forces of torturing detainees and defendants.

MENA said the $30 million is being spent mainly in southern Egypt and densely populated areas of Cairo.

On Monday, a gunman fired at a police captain and wounded an enlisted policeman and a bystander, the fifth attack in a week of violence that has killed four people. Victims included two Coptic Christians, one a pol[illegible] and two other [illegible]

[illegible] Al-Gamaa Al Islamiah (Islamic Group) claimed responsibility for one of the attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Evacuation of Palestinian prisons possible

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Television said Tuesday Police Minister Moshe Shahal had ordered the prison authority to prepare to evacuate jails for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Shahal's spokesman would not confirm or deny the report. Government and military officials have not ruled out a release of some of 10,500 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel under the Sept. 13 accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for self-rule in the occupied territories. Israeli newspapers said last week the army could close four detention camps and release up to 4,000 of the 6,500 Palestinian prisoners it holds. The prison population in the occupied territories has swelled since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule began nearly six years ago. The reports said Israel would free prisoners aligned with the PLO but no one involved in killings or armed attacks on soldiers or civilians or those linked to groups opposed to the peace accord. Maximum security prisoners would be transferred to jails inside Israel. Palestinians and human rights organisations have said the transfer of prisoners to Israel violates the Fourth Geneva Convention protecting populations under occupation.

Iranians demonstrate at Palestine embassy

NICOSIA (R) — Hundreds of Iranian students demonstrated at the Palestine embassy in Tehran Tuesday, denouncing Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat as a traitor for making peace with Israel, Iranian Television said. The demonstration, one day after merchants in the Tehran bazaar closed down shops in a similar protest, was the latest event in Iran's campaign against the PLO-Israel agreement signed in Washington two weeks ago. The television showed students chanting slogans, blocking the street in front of the embassy and carrying pictures of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The rally was apparently peaceful. A rally statement "rejected any compromise with world arrogance headed by criminal America and called for obliteration of the usurper Zionist regime (Israel) and defence of the oppressed Palestinian nation until total liberation," it said. The statement "declared Arafat a traitor to the sacred ideals of Muslims of the world."

Suspects identified in killing of Frenchmen

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian authorities have identified three Muslim extremists as the main suspects in the killing of two French technicians in western Algeria a week ago, the security services said Tuesday. The statement failed to say if the trio, who are Algerian veterans of the war in Afghanistan and who are wanted in connection with other attacks, had been arrested. It identified them as Kadda Benchiha Larbi, 29, Djeriri Tayeb, 30, and Akkal Mustapha Rachid, 23. The Frenchmen were the first foreign nationals to die in unrest which has rocked the country since January 1992 and left more than 2,000 people dead. All three suspects belonged to the "Afghans" group, whose members are the most extreme of those who back the armed Muslim struggle in Algeria. They were also members of the previously unknown armed Muslim group United Companions of Jihad. Arrest warrants had been issued for the three in connection with several other attacks and Tayeb was sentenced to death in absentia in Oran, the main city in western Algeria, the statement said.

Jews who fled to Palestine still German citizens

BERLIN (AFP) — A federal court ruled Tuesday that German Jews who fled Nazi Germany to Palestine during the 1930s are still entitled to German citizenship. The administrative court made the ruling while hearing a case involving a man, living in the United States, whose father had emigrated during the rise of Nazism before World War II. The court granted the man German nationality, because his father had never legally lost his nationality, according to the judgement. It justified the ruling by saying that Palestine in the 1930s was not formally a state, but a region under control of the League of Nations and British administration.

Would be kidnapper meets intended victim

MOGADISHU (AFP) — It was the strangest of meetings. Abdi, a 25-year-old Somali, smiled almost timidly as he met up with the Italian journalist he had almost kidnapped last Saturday. "I wanted to take an American hostage to trade him for our prisoners," Abdi told Corriere Della Sera journalist Massimo Alberizzi and AFP to explain his actions in support of fugitive Somali warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed. He said he was especially interested in obtaining the release of General Aideed's right-hand man Osman Hassan Ali, known as "Ato", who is in U.N. custody. Abdi recounted that Mr. Alberizzi had shouted "I'm Italian" and "so my colleague and I left him on the spot. We took his car so he couldn't follow us with his bodyguards." The car and Mr. Alberizzi's gear were returned, thanks to other Somalis working with the foreign press corps. "We had no direct orders to kidnap Americans," he said, "but we wanted to help the Habre Gedir, Aideed's clan, who fought against Mohammad Siad Barre," the former president toppled in January 1991 and chased out of the country in April last year. "We differentiate between Americans and other foreigners, but not between American soldiers and American journalists," he said. "It's the first time anyone has told me the American journalists are different to the other Americans," he said, adding: "I'll spread the word." For now, there are no American journalists in the capital.

Abdul Moumene named WHO envoy to Mideast

GENEVA (AFP) — Dr. Mohammad Abdul Moumene, former deputy director general of the World Health Organisation (WHO), has been appointed special WHO representative to the Middle East. It was further announced Tuesday that he will also be director of health for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, based in Vienna. Dr. Abdul Moumene, who is Algerian, was suspended from his post as number two at WHO in August 1992 by Japanese Director General Hiroshi Nakajima after applying to succeed Mr. Nakajima. Mr. Nakajima was finally elected at the end of January for a second five-year term of office despite controversy over his management.

Moroccan socialist party leader resigns

RABAT (R) — The leader of Morocco's main opposition party, the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP), tendered his resignation in protest against government fraud in legislative elections, a party spokesman said on Tuesday. The spokesman, Tahar Medoun, told Reuters that USFP leader Abdul Rahman Yousoufi handed in his resignation "because of the flagrant violations and interference by the administration in the legislative elections." He said the party politburo refused to accept the resignation and it would be discussed on Sunday by the central committee. "I doubt they will accept it either," Mr. Mouden said. In the two-stage elections for 333 members of the chamber of representatives on June 25 and Sept. 17, the USFP and its trade union ally won 56 seats, the highest of 11 parties in the contest. Five centre-right parties of the outgoing majority kept their majority with 195 seats. USFP leaders accused the administration of favouring the rightists. Mr. Mouden said Mr. Yousoufi, who became leader in January 1992 after the death of the party's founder Abdul Rahim Bouabid, was absent in France for health reasons.

Algerian former communist assassinated

ALGIERS (AFP) — A former official of the Algerian Communist Party was assassinated Tuesday near his home in the Algerian suburb of Mohammedia, party sources said. Abdul Rahman Chergou, 56, married and a father of two, died in hospital of knife wounds to his throat, chest and abdomen. Chergou, who helped found the socialist Avant-Garde Party in 1966, held a degree in economics and was a former senior official of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and later of the Ministry of Planning. He left the party between the two rounds of the abortive general election of December 1991 to join with other dissidents and create the front for modern Algeria, but it garnered little backing from communist supporters.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

[illegible]

[illegible] Quantum Leap
[illegible] News in English
[illegible]
Feature Film "In the Company of Darkness"

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 [illegible] Fajr
[illegible] Shurooq Duha
12:26 [illegible] Dhuhr

[illegible]

Terrasancta Church Tel: 622566
Church of the Annonciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel [illegible]

[illegible]

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 683195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel 823824, 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

WEATHER

[illegible] supplied by the Department of [illegible]

[illegible] Jordan Valley [illegible]

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr Ramzi Mawai [illegible] 794788
Dr. Khalil Al Jabbi [illegible] 740740
Dr. Mohammad Qur'an [illegible] 612232
Dr. Salah Al 'Ussd [illegible] 649028
Firas pharmacy [illegible] 661912
[illegible]
Amman Municipality [illegible]
[illegible]
Jordan Television [illegible] 773111
Radio Jordan [illegible] 774111
Water Authority [illegible] 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority [illegible] 815615

ZARQA:
Dr Akram Haddad [illegible] 985550

[illegible] pharmacy [illegible]

Civil Defence Department [illegible] 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue [illegible] 630341
Civil Defence Emergency [illegible] 199
Rescue Police [illegible] 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade [illegible] 891228
Blood Bank [illegible] 775121
Highway Police [illegible] 843402
Traffic Police [illegible] 896390
Public Security Department [illegible] 630321
Hotel Complaints [illegible] 605800
Price Complaints [illegible] 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints [illegible]
Amman Municipality [illegible]
[illegible]
Zarqa Govt. Hospital [illegible] (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital [illegible] (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital [illegible] (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital [illegible] (09)990990
IRBID:

Electric Power Company [illegible] 636381
RJ Flight Information [illegible] 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport [illegible] 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre [illegible] 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn [illegible] 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn [illegible] 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity [illegible] 642362
Malhas, J. Amman [illegible] 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani [illegible] 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital [illegible] 669131
University Hospital [illegible] 845845
Al-Mansher Hospital [illegible] 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali [illegible] 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali [illegible] 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Mwaqqar [illegible] 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh [illegible] 775111/20
[illegible]
Princess Basma Hospital [illegible] (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital [illegible] (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital [illegible] (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital [illegible] (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 [illegible] Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 [illegible] Aden (RJ)
09:45 [illegible] New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 [illegible] Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 [illegible] Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 [illegible] Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 [illegible] Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:55 [illegible] Beirut (RJ)
11:00 [illegible] Colombo (RJ)
18:30 [illegible] New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:55 [illegible] Larnaca (RJ)
19:00 [illegible] Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:15 [illegible] Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:30 [illegible] London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30 [illegible] Athens (RJ)
20:00 [illegible] Casa Blanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:10 [illegible] Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:00 [illegible] Riyadh (SU)
16:55 [illegible] Rome (AZ)
20:35 [illegible] Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 [illegible] Beirut (RJ)
12:00 [illegible] Rome (RJ)
12:05 [illegible] Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:15 [illegible] Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:30 [illegible] Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 [illegible] Paris (RJ)
13:05 [illegible] Athens (RJ)
13:15 [illegible] London (RJ)
13:30 [illegible] Larnaca (RJ)
21:00 [illegible] Madrid (RJ)
21:30 [illegible] Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 [illegible] Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 [illegible] Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:45 [illegible] Kula Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:05 [illegible] Larnaca (CY)
09:15 [illegible] Beirut (ME)
12:15 [illegible] Larnaca, Vienna (AA)
15:30 [illegible] Riyadh (SA)
17:45 [illegible] Damascus (AZ)
21:15 [illegible] Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	750/650
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Beans	750 / 650
Cabbage	130 / 70
Carrot	400/300
Cauliflower	280/ 200
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	340 / 240
Eggplant	300 / 200
Fig	280 / 180
Garlic	850 / 650
Grapes	360/300
Guava	600/ 450
Lemon	250 / 200
Marrow (large)	200 / 160
Marrow (small)	400 / 300
Mulukhja	220 / 120
Okra	1000/900
Onion (dry)	250 / 180
Pepper (hot)	280 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	260 / 160
Potato	450/ 350
Tomato	130/ 90
Sweet melon	250/180
Watermelon	220/160

هكذا من الأصل

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday comforts a patient in the new kidney dialysis unit of Abu Ubaida Hospital in Wadi Al Yabes (Petra photo)

Princess Basma urges women to play active role in development

SALT (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma urged Jordanian women to be more active in this contribution to society and in solving its problems.

Addressing a rally held here Wednesday to discuss women's role in the community, the Princess said women should have more self-confidence and must play a key role, because women have rights and duties towards their nation.

Women, she added, can and should participate in the ongoing development of the country and help achieve more gains.

Reflecting on the National Strategy on Women, the Princess said that it provides for short term and long term plans for the involvement of women in social, political, economic and educational affairs.

Before visiting Salt, the Princess stopped by Abu Ubaida Hospital in Wadi Al Yabes in the northern Jordan Valley, where she inaugurated a dialysis unit donated by the Society for the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society.

She toured various sections and enquired about the health of patients.

According to Yousef Shriedeh, the dialysis unit is capable of serving 12 patients at four cases a day.

Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas was among the top officials accompanying the Princess on the tour.

Queen inaugurates new diabetes care building...

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurated the opening of the new building of the Jordanian Society for the Care of Diabetes.

The society, established in 1991, is committed to raising public awareness, providing services and equipment necessary for the preventive and therapeutic treatment of diabetics, and contributing financially to the care of patients.

The society also sponsors and conducts research on diabetes.

Queen Noor became the society's honorary president in November 1992.

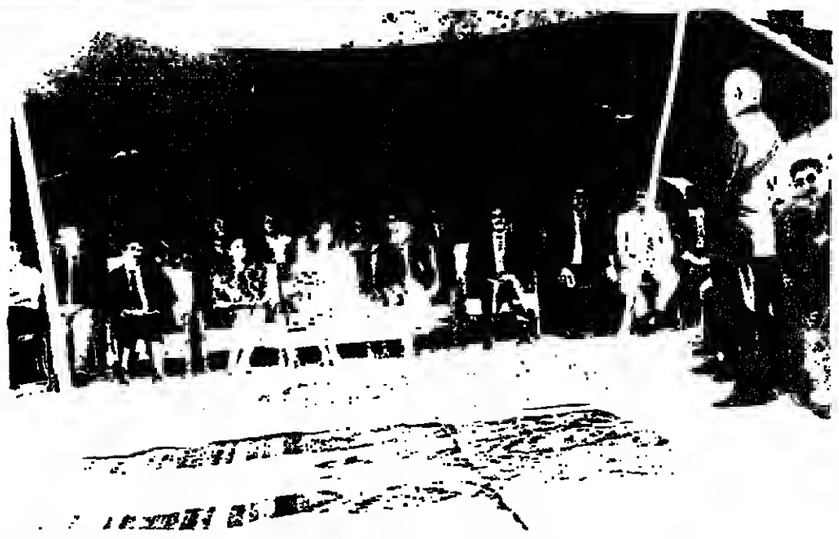
In his welcoming speech at the opening ceremony, Mohammad Al Zahiri, the president of the society, outlined the growth in the activities and reach of the society since its establishment.

The new location, added Dr. Al Zahiri, will serve as a centre for health education seminars, as well as a clinic servicing diabetic patients and offering training to medical staff and the patients' families.

The Ministry of Health, in addition to private institutions and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), contributed in setting up the clinic.

Upon arrival, the Queen was received by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour, Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas and Dr. Al Zahiri.

Queen Noor was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Faisal.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurates the opening of a new building of the Jordanian Society for the Care of Diabetes (Petra photo)

... meets with philanthropists

Also on Wednesday Queen Noor met with a visiting delegation from the Ambassador Foundation at Al Nadwa Palace.

The foundation is an international philanthropic institution that was established to promote understanding between peoples and to provide aid and assistance worldwide.

There are currently 17 Ambassador Foundation volunteers in Jordan providing assistance in physical education, occupational, hydro and physiotherapy for the disabled, as well as in vocational and technical training.

These volunteers work in close cooperation with local institutions, such as the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Amman Baccalaureate School, and the Amman National School. They also work with Al Hussein Society, the Young Muslim Women's Association and the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped.

The foundation's volunteers have assisted in the establishment of the National Basketball Team for the Handicapped, as well as in vocational workshops for the disabled.

In addressing the group, the Queen spoke about the various challenges facing the region, and she stressed the need for transnational cooperation and solidarity among all peoples.

She added that recent developments should mark the beginning of a new era of reconciliation, real peace and prosperity.

Queen Noor said that despite the difficult times that Jordan has been through, it continues to be a model of democracy, pluralism and human rights in the region.

The group consists of 200 visitors, mostly private donors to the Ambassador Foundation, as well as university professors and professionals.

The group will tour Petra, Jerash, and Madaba, among other sites in Jordan.

Kingdom plans pilot project to desalinate water — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Water and Irrigation Minister Bassam Kakish announced here Wednesday that Jordan plans to set up a pilot water desalination project.

There will be a feasibility study of this project, taking into account technical and environmental considerations, said the minister in a lecture entitled "How to Face the Water Crisis in the Middle East."

Noting that desalination of water would be needed to overcome the shortage in water supplies in the years ahead, Mr. Kakish called for regional cooperation in this arena.

He said nuclear energy could be employed at the regional level for the desalination of sea water.

He added that the region could also cooperate in linking the Red and Dead seas through a canal that could provide the required energy for such a desalination scheme.

There is also a need for regional cooperation in water-sharing of common underground water resources and water basins, the minister continued.

In his lecture, delivered at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, as part of the Agricultural Book Festival which opened Tuesday, Mr. Kakish said that Jordan, along with the other countries of the region, has a semi-arid climate with fluctuating rainfall and high evaporation rates.

Furthermore, the country faces increasing water supply problems because of the high population growth rates, forced migrations of people into the Kingdom and the increase in water consumption, added the minister.

Referring to the country's water resources, the minister said that they are very limited, and the government has lately resorted to constructing more dams to collect rain water.

Recycling of treated water constitutes another source for irrigation purposes, said Mr. Kakish, who noted that last year alone, 52 million cubic metres of water treated at 14 water treatment plants were used to water trees and vegetables.

Jordan, Syria agree to hold trade fairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Syria agreed to set up trade exchanges and hold annual Syrian and Jordanian trade exhibitions in Damascus and Amman to promote the sale of their national products.

The agreement was reached in talks conducted in Damascus last week by a Jordanian delegation led by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad and a team of Syrian economists and officials.

The two sides also agreed to adopt effective measures to remove obstacles impeding the exchange of trade and to increase the volume of traded goods between the two countries, said Mr. Awad upon his return to Amman Wednesday.

The agreement calls for conducting import/export business paying for the traded goods in free convertible currencies, he said.

A former agreement on settling payment for exchanged goods through the central banks of both countries was cancelled, added Mr. Awad.

He said that the trade fairs stipulated in the agreement allowed to sell directly to the public in accordance with arrangements and regulations still to be approved by the two sides.

In their talks, the two sides reviewed the economic and trade cooperation between the countries, especially those conducted through the Syrian-Jordanian joint companies, said Mr. Awad.

The delegates decided to hold one more meeting to prepare for the joint Syrian-Jordanian ministerial economic committee meeting, scheduled to convene in Amman next month.

The team accompanying Mr. Awad to the Damascus meeting included representatives of the Customs Department, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), the Jordan-Syria Industry Company, as well as the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Transport.

JORDANIAN-U.S. EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION: University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (centre) and California State University Executive Vice President Amer Al Ahraf (right) Wednesday sign a memorandum of understanding for educational and scientific cooperation between the two higher education institutes. The document provides for the exchange of visits by teaching staff, conducting joint research programmes, exchanging expertise in health and nursing services and educational and scientific programmes, as well as administrative and auditing matters. The memorandum also provides for students to take up courses at either university and for the two universities to develop joint doctoral degree programmes.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Remember to set your clocks back

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Wednesday issued a statement reminding the public of winter hours, which start at midnight Thursday Sept. 30. Clocks will be set back one hour to run at two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Visiting Islamic delegation meets minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing Islamic cultural centres in the Russian Federation and the Caucasus met here Wednesday with Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi to discuss means of bolstering cultural cooperation. The delegation later met with Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit, president of the Al Al Bait University, which is being established at Mafraq.

GUVS wins UNDP award again

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has won the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) award for 1993 entitled "Partners in Development." GUVS, which won the award for the second time for its unique projects in helping the handicapped, received a $60,000 award.

Seminar to mark Jerusalem Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-day seminar on Jerusalem Day starts at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday under the patronage of Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat. Lectures to be delivered by participants from foreign countries will discuss the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the monuments of Jerusalem. Christian and Muslim scholars from Arab and foreign countries will take part in the meeting.

Khirbet Al Thari dig finds frescoes

IRBID (Petra) — The French Archaeological Institute, working in cooperation with Yarmouk University, has ended an excavation season at Khirbet Al Thari in Tafileh governorate. Zeidun Muheisen of Yarmouk University said the digs unearthed remains of parts of an ancient castle revealing walls, bathrooms, water canals and coloured frescoes.

Development fund takes borrowers to court

AMMAN (Petra) — The Employment and Development Fund (EDF) is taking legal and other measures against several recipients of EDF loans because of alleged violations and misuse of funds.

EDF Director General Mohammad Simadi said that the EDF Board found that some borrowers have abused the use of funds which were intended to create income-generating schemes and was referring the matter to court.

The EDF continues to provide soft, long term loans to beneficiaries who are unemployed or poor and wish to start a business, or to those undertaking vocational training in order to start a business, said Mr. Simadi.

He said that since the beginning of 1993, the EDF granted loans to 415 individual projects totalling JD 2.5 million.

The Amman governorate was approved for 75 projects, the major share of the loans; other projects where approved in Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Ma'an, Karak, Tafileh and Mafrak governorates.

Most of the projects approved for loans are agricultural, including cattle and sheep-breeding and poultry projects; some loans also went to finance handicrafts and small industrial schemes, said Mr. Simadi.

So far 85 per cent of the total number of projects financed by the fund are progressing well creating about 2,700 jobs.

The EDF recently adopted a new policy of reaching out to poor families in the remote regions.

Traffic department issues 13,947 tickets in 12 days

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Traffic Department's 12-day campaign ended September 16 and resulted in 13,947 citations issued to motorists and the seizure of 7,071 car licenses, according to the department's calculations.

Of the tickets issued 25% were for environmentally unsafe fuel emissions, 32% for motorists not wearing seat belts, and 43% for malfunctioning lights. Government and military vehicles received 149 tickets.

Fakhri Dawood, assistant director of the traffic department, said he was satisfied with the outcome of the campaign.

"I believe that the campaign served its purpose," he said, adding that the traffic department and traffic officials noticed that, in general, motorists became more aware of the consequences, and most drivers repaired the problems in their vehicles."

Mr. Dawood told the Jordan Times that the issuance of citations was not the department's primary aim, but rather the traffic department seeks to insure a pollution-free environment and to increase drivers' awareness of traffic safety regulations and thus reduce the number of road accidents.

People's attitudes toward the campaign was encouraging, said Mr. Dawood. He added that he received several positive remarks from the public in regard to the campaign. "The traffic department received several calls from citizens to thank us," he said.

"Some of them even wrote to local newspapers to thank the department for its efforts in trying to eliminate the smoke problem, which most citizens complain about."

Although the campaign has ended, Mr. Dawood stated that traffic officials will still concentrate on these violations, in addition to their other duties.

"Even though the campaign is over, traffic officials will still stop every car that produces thick smoke or has a malfunction, and drivers will be fined accordingly."

Furthermore, Mr. Dawood said that it is the drivers' responsibility to provide safety for themselves and as well as others to mitigate the damages that might occur in an accident.

"I hope the day will come when all motorists will follow traffic guidelines — it is the aspiration of every traffic officer in the Kingdom."

Rabin: Autonomy deal a priority

(Continued from page 1)

Ehud Barak announced.

"In the coming months a road will be laid to avoid Jericho and ensure the security of Israeli citizens," Gen. Barak told Haaretz newspaper.

The busy main road from Jerusalem to Galilee and the northern Jordan Valley twists through Jericho.

— Mr. Rabin pledged to cut army reserve duty in half by 1996 in order to save money, according to a Rabin letter released Wednesday.

Israeli men are called up for reserve duty for about one month per year once they have completed their three-year mandatory service at age 21. They are in the reserves until age 50.

A military official said the cuts were made possible by a growing number of draftees.

Legislator Raanan Cohen said replacing reserve soldiers with regular troops would save the state about 500 million shekels ($175 million) a year and ease the burden on the economy caused by the reservists' long absences from their jobs.

— Police have confiscated the guns of numerous "dangerous" Jewish settlers on the occupied West Bank, the authorities said Wednesday.

Police said they targetted settlers with criminal records or those considered dangerous, but refused to say how many weapons had been seized.

The Hadashot newspaper reported it had the names of 12 settlers whose guns had been confiscated.

Aharon Domb, spokesman for the settlers' council, accused the government of "abandoning settlers and preventing them from defending themselves against Palestinians."

"We are not prepared to give up our guns," he warned.

— The PLO has turned down the chance to block the spread of Jewish settlement around Jerusalem by joining Israeli left-wingers to fight Jerusalem municipal elections on Nov. 2, councillors said Wednesday.

Councillors Sarah Kaminker and Moshe Amirav wanted to run a "peace for Jerusalem" list with Palestinians from East Jerusalem, who represent 27 per cent of the electorate.

But when the election application deadline closed Tuesday night Mr. Amirav had to admit defeat, despite a visit to Tunisia last week seeking the support of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The two left-wingers say the Palestinians, who have boycotted the municipal elections since 1967, could hold the balance of power in the council and thereby halt settlement.

— Peace, with Israel, if and when it comes, could save Syria 75 per cent of government expenditure which it now allocates to defence. Syria's central bank governor was quoted on Wednesday as saying.

Hisham Mitwalli told the London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper "speaking about the benefits of peace is premature because peace has not been achieved yet."

But "(peace) can save the state between 70 and 75 per cent of the public money which has been going to defence purposes for the past 40 years," he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Painting exhibition by artist Fateh Moudarres at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ☆ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Sigrid Bensemann at Goethe Institute.
- ☆ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.
- ☆ Art exhibition of paintings on Petra by British artist Caroline Dobson at the British Council.
- ☆ Iraqi Art Festival at the Alia Art Gallery
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings and photographic pictures of old Baghdad by Nadim Muhsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2
- ☆ Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of Agricultural Books at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ☆ Film entitled: "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Golan Vs. Peace

THE CENTRE of the debate on the Middle East during this week's United Nations General Assembly meetings was the exchange of public views between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Shara. Sensing the significance of the Syrian-Israeli track which remains stalemated, the two sides threw volleys at each other containing their position on where the problem lies. "We must ask the Syrian leadership if it has chosen peace," Peres told a packed General Assembly. "Why does it (meaning Syria) refuse to meet openly," he said. But while emphasising that Israel has no territorial claims in Lebanon, he did not repeat the same assurances when it came to the Golan Heights, the thorniest problem that divides the Syrians and Israelis.

This is where Peres has gone wrong because what the Arab side wanted to hear that the days of coveting Arab lands are gone and finished with. No one could expect Damascus to be more forthcoming in the open challenges put to them including shedding off the facade of not meeting openly with its adversary unless and until the Rabin government makes a clear commitment that it will withdraw completely from occupied Syrian territories in the context of a full and complete peace conditions between the two countries.

The Syrian side was quick to respond to Peres' protestations in favour of peace by reminding the world that there can be no peace in the region without Syrian participation. This much the international community knew all along when it coined the language that there can be no war in the Middle East without Egypt and no peace without Syria. The only novelty in these propositions is the Syrian reminder, so late in the hour, on the peace process and in the wake of the PLO-Israel accord and the Jordanian-Israeli "agenda" agreement in the course of the month of September.

The Syrian message was not directed to the Israelis or to the outside world alone but also to the other Arab parties to the bilateral peace negotiations. Most likely, the Palestinians were especially targetted by the Syrians who have yet to forgive the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, for his secretive and unilateral deal with Israel which left the other Arab parties out in the cold. This could be also a direct response to Peres' statement at the United Nations that his country "is determined to make the agreement with the Palestinians into a permanent success." Damascus obviously has a different assessment, and of all parties, the Rabin government should be aware of what this assessment is.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE WORLD community realises that the Middle East region can not enjoy real peace if its inhabitants are deprived of decent life and if they do not enjoy conditions to ensure sustainable development, said Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. In this context, the world community must have surely realised the unique role played by Jordan over the past decades towards the establishment of peace and the huge sacrifices it had offered towards attaining that aspired goal, said the daily. Over the past 45 years, Jordan has suffered from the consequences of the regional conflicts and shouldered heavy burdens due to the forced migrations of hundreds of thousands of evacuees, refugees and others, continued the paper. Following the 1948 war, Jordan opened its arms to the Palestinians who were uprooted from their homeland and shared with them the meagre resources available at the time; and since then the Kingdom played host to other refugees and displaced persons, offering them refuge and help, added the paper. Jordan, said the paper, has contained many of the crises that plagued the region including the Gulf crisis and has remained committed to peace based on justice. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is conveying to the U.S. administration and the U.N. General Assembly this message, urging the world community to be fair and just in providing for the continued development of the countries of this region and to reward Jordan for its heavy sacrifices and long struggle towards the establishment of peace and security.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily focused attention on the future negotiations between the PLO and Israel, noting that they hold the key for peace. Now that the PLO leadership is planning to put into force its agreement with the Israeli government, it is facing two major challenges, said Ibrahim Al Ajlouni. The first challenge is represented in the negotiations themselves, where the Israelis are bound to manoeuvre and adopt delaying tactics, and also conduct the talks from a position of strength and with cool heads, said the writer. He said that in contrast, the Palestinians will be negotiating under pressure and in a hurry to get things done with so as to pave the way for the promised self-rule.

Economics, equity are vital Mideast elements in water sharing

By Dr. David B. Brooks

MOST OF the region's main rivers cross international and ethnic borders, challenging successive peoples and governments to share water. Recent history is no less contentious, particularly so in the land shared by Israelis and Palestinians. With respect to water disputes, I distinguish three inter-related issues: the classic one of water quantity, the newer one of water quality, and geopolitics, an issue both new and old.

Today's challenge is not simply to resolve the historic problem of water scarcity in an arid region but to do so with economic efficiency, ecological responsibility, and political equitability. Attention to one dimension alone is unlikely to be helpful.

In analysing these issues, the word "crisis," favoured by popular writers, may be closer to the mark than describing the situation as "chronic," the typical practice of academics. "Chronic" understates the urgency of conditions in which nations are heavily armed, urban dwellers depend on piped water systems, huge quantities and varieties of pollutants contaminate water courses, and rapid rates of population growth and economic change are endemic.

While conflict over water exists in many places in the Middle East, nowhere is the conflict sharper than in the Jordan River Basin shared largely by Israel, the West Bank and Jordan, with Syria and Lebanon also having some rights. It is in these areas that demand and supply are most seriously out of balance. Moreover, much of the water consumed in Israel originates in aquifers that rise on the West Bank — land that may ultimately be controlled by Palestinians, a factor further contributing to crisis.

Economic challenge

From the moment human beings first placed a few stones to direct water toward crops, supply augmentation has dominated discussions about water. Only in emergencies does conservation take priority. Typically, much more attention is devoted to increasing supply than to reducing demand.

It is time to shift emphasis to the demand side of water management. The energy crisis taught us that we are likely to close the gaps between water demand and water supply more easily, cheaply and safely by reducing use than by increasing delivery.

Middle East nations already use water relatively efficiently. The problem, to quote Thomas Naff, is "that they are not as efficient as the crisis and the scarcity requires them to be." In Israel, for example, water policy clearly answers to agricultural policy. Farming accounts for about 70 per cent of all water use in Israel, including saline and recycled water. This water could be used to far greater economic gain in other sectors of the economy. Considerable volumes of water should be reallocated from irrigating crops to industrial and household uses, or simply left unpumped to protect the aquifers.

"In Israel, water policy clearly answers to agricultural policy. Farming accounts for about 70 per cent of all water use in Israel, including saline and recycled water. This water could be used to far greater economic gain in other sectors of economy."

Water is expensive because even conventional water supply systems are capital intensive, especially per dollar of revenue. The Jordan River Basin is not more arid than other parts of the region, but rainfall varies sharply from place to place and season to season. Hence, extensive systems must be built to gather and deliver water. As well, Israel and Jordan each use about one-fifth of their electricity just to pump water. Alternative systems are still more capital intensive, especially desalination. Desalination takes enormous quantities of energy, and even with low oil prices, costs to consumers would have to be two to five times current levels. Still, the idea survives in the form of megaprojects such as canals linking the Mediterranean and Dead Seas or the Red and Dead Seas. Such plans are questionable on economical and environmental grounds, especially before exploring demand-side measures.

Alternative analyses of energy — dubbed the "soft energy path" — that came out of the energy crisis of the 1970s have lessons that can be applied to the water crisis of the 1990s. Soft energy analyses focus on the services provided by energy, not on delivery of the commodity itself. The question then becomes how each end use or service can be most efficiently satisfied.

In marked contrast, conventional wisdom focuses on ensuring adequate supplies to meet present and future energy (water) demands. This perspective betrays out-moded doctrines of consumer sovereignty and the insatiability of human needs. It treats demand as being divorced from the policy process, a "given" that must be satisfied by ever greater supply.

The soft path stands the conventional approach on its head. Analysis starts with end uses, not sources of supply. This reversal forces a bottom-up rather than top-down view. Now, conservation and efficiency are not merely unfortunate necessities but rather the touchstone of rational resource planning.

Of course, the analogy between energy and water is not perfect. Among other things, water lacks the direct linkage to thermodynamic constraints; except for hydropower, supply does not vary from year to year; and direct use is more important than indirect. Nevertheless, enormous opportunities present themselves to maintain excellent standards of living with lower consumption of water. For both water and energy, the amounts actually needed to support a comfortable life are only a small fraction of total consumption. The lesson for Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories is that the largest, safest and cheapest "source of supply" for water is likely to be found through conservation in existing uses, mainly in irrigation water.

Ecological challenge

A second element of the soft energy approach is to devote as much attention to conserving quality as quantity. All Middle Eastern countries have a wastewater problem, and one that links directly to water supply. The examples are numerous. Dumping of wastewater is common, directly into water courses or dry river beds. At the next rainfall, the wastewater seeps into the aquifers. Per hectare use of pesticides and fertilisers in Israel and Jordan is among the world's highest, and run-off is equally high and unregulated. As one result, nitrate concentrations (augmented by sewage effluent) in the coastal aquifer could eventually make the water unacceptable for irrigation. Olive oil mills, an otherwise excellent way to increase farm income and provide rural employment, release a black liquor that depletes the oxygen content of waters into which it seeps.

Although nations sharing the Jordan River are among world leaders in recycling sewage for agricultural use, most of the reused water receives minimal or no treatment, and much of it contains excessive quantities of chemicals. Industrial contamination of surface and groundwater can also be assumed to be serious, even without regular testing. Spot checks in Israel show concentrations of solvents, petrochemicals, gasoline products and other contaminants at levels well above those allowed in other industrial countries.

The short coastal rivers are the most seriously degraded ecosystems in Israel. Their flows are greatly reduced because the springs that fed them have been diverted to the National Water Carrier. These diversions remove the flushing effect of a stronger flow, worsening conditions in rivers such as the Kishon in Haifa, which, according to one source, receives 10 thousand cubic metres daily of industrial waste water. Parks along its banks are now considered dangerous to health.

Some exceptions relieve the generally dismal picture of water quality in Israel. The Sea of Galilee is managed under a unified plan that prohibits dumping and restricts the uses of water from the lake. As a result, it retains its quality, its beauty and its tourist income. The Yarkon River in Tel Aviv is the test case in a physical and economic feasibility study of rehabilitation to a level that would permit recreational use.

Water quality and water quantity are positively linked. Conflicts between economics and environment that arise so commonly when approached from the supply side are typically lessened or eliminated when approached from the demand side. For example, efficient irrigation reduces the risk of soil salinisation, and low-flow toilets and showers cut wastewater flows into sewers. By and large, policies that promote more economically efficient use also support environmental protection.

Geopolitical challenge

How many times have we seen projections for water that show increasing deficits between water use and water availability! As a way to identify short-term problems and to adjust operations in water utilities, forecasts have their place.

"The Jordan River basin is clearly an area of water stress. The best approach may well be to treat quantity and quality issues together, and to recognise that neither can be achieved without explicit recognition of mutually shared rights and responsibilities for management. Sustainable development is not just a matter of economics and ecology; if it does not also incorporate equality, it will fail."

But as a way to determine policy options, they are seriously inadequate or misleading.

Turning a final time to the soft energy alternative, it substitutes "backcasting" for forecasting. Forecasting begins from the present and tries to determine the future. Backcasting begins from the future and works back to the present. In a water backcast, one defines in detail a future water economy, and then analyses whether there is a feasible and acceptable path between the present to that future. In the case of energy, traditional forecasting always called for greater supplies. However, backcasting indicated the option to maintain consumption at the same level or even cut it. Actual energy use turns out to be much closer to the patterns suggested by the soft path than by traditional analysis.

Approaching water problems through a soft path approach could work to reduce problems between Israelis and Palestinians. Because it is concerned with how desirable futures can be obtained, backcasting is explicit about its subjective goals. It has none of the pretensions to objectivity sometimes claimed by forecasting. This feature makes it an ideal partner for political science in a search for regional cooperation and accommodation. All sides see close linkages between water availability and national political and economic security. It is therefore only through the exploration of alternative futures, not simply a projection of the present into the future, that we will find ways to minimise conflict.

Cautious optimism

The Jordan River Basin is clearly an area of water stress. The best approach may well be to treat quantity and quality issues together, and to recognise that neither can be achieved without explicit recognition of mutually shared rights and responsibilities for management. Indeed, this was the principal message of the Brundtland Commission. Sustainable development is not just a matter of economics and ecology; if it does not also incorporate equality, it will fail.

The current water economy and water policies in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories are coming into question sharply because they have been used to the severe and evident disadvantage of Palestinians, and even work to the less evident disadvantage of Israelis themselves. With the parallel bilateral and multilateral tracks of the current peace process, we may at last be witnessing Rothman and Lowi's iterative process "by which progress beginning at the political process — that is, the Arab-Israeli peace process — requires concrete progress at the practical level — for example, sharing water resources — for both consolidation and fruition." There are grounds for cautious optimism. Economy, ecology and equality may indeed be joined around water issues in the current negotiations — International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

Questions looming over American role in Somalia

By Walter R. Mears
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's a plain, common-sense lesson behind President Clinton's advice on United Nations peacekeeping missions: check for the exit on the way in because it may be hard to find it later.

That also was part of George Bush's farewell message on the use of American military forces abroad. Along with it, Mr. Bush bequeathed Mr. Clinton an operation that ironically proves the point, because it demonstrates the difficulty of setting clear, measurable objectives and planning the way out before the troops go in.

U.S. forces were supposed to be in and out of Somalia in short order when they were sent to relieve starvation last December. After nearly 10 months, the mission has changed for about 4,700 Americans still there. Eleven have been killed. They lost their lives, Mr. Clinton said Monday, "to ensure that we complete our mission and to ensure that anarchy and starvation do not return just as quickly as they were abolished."

But with deadly skirmishes in Mogadishu against the forces of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, the mission has changed.

The Senate has voted to ask that Mr. Clinton report on the situation by Oct. 15, and get congressional approval if U.S. forces are going to stay after Nov. 15. The House is expected to adopt a similar measure.

Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the American mission should be defined so that there is a definite ending point, although he avoided setting a deadline. Sen. Nunn said the mission has expanded and become more dangerous while U.S. troop levels have been reduced.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, who heads the Appropriations Committee, said U.S. forces should be withdrawn now, before they are drawn deeper into a quagmire "without a legitimate purpose... ."

Three Americans were killed Saturday when their helicopter was shot down by militiamen in Mogadishu. The administration said that underscored the need to reestablish security so that international humanitarian effort will not be undermined.

The mission going in, on Dec. 8, 1992, was to get relief to starving Somalis and to secure supply lines for food and medicine. In those early days of Operation Restore Hope, Mr. Bush's spokesman said the goal was to have U.S. troops achieve their mission swiftly, turn it over to U.N. forces from other nations, and get out that winter, perhaps before Mr. Clinton was inaugurated on Jan. 20. At that point, though, U.S. forces were still being deployed.

Mr. Clinton endorsed the operation from the start. Mr. Bush told Congress it would not be a prolonged one. "I think if President Bush would have told us we're going to have to go in there and rebuild the nation, at the outset, it never would have happened," Sen. Bob Dole, the Republican leader, said in an ABC-TV interview. "...I think both administrations are somewhat less than candid about this."

Mr. Clinton said Monday he still believes Mr. Bush was right in sending U.S. forces, even though "we may have underestimated the difficulty" of gaining political stability.

"We went in with a nice clean, clear goal last December," Gen. Colin Powell, retiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the other day. "...We are in something of a murky area now... We have to stay the course. We can't simply walk away when it does become murky or a little unsettled."

To do otherwise, he said, would risk what's been gained so far.

A month into the Somalia operation, Mr. Bush delivered his foreign policy farewell, advising his successors to weigh the stakes, the mission and its end before committing U.S. forces. He said there should be a realistic criterion for declaring a mission accomplished and withdrawing.

But he said there is no easy formula. The Somalia policy dilemma proves the point.

While Mr. Clinton called that operation "a stunning humanitarian rescue" that must be completed, in his debut at the United Nations he set down peacekeeping tests that recalled the Bush checkpoints.

"Is there a real threat to international peace? Does the proposed mission have clear objectives? Can an end point be identified ...? How much will the mission cost?

"From now on, the United Nations should address these and other hard questions for every proposed mission," the president said.

New Clinton arms policy called modest

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

NEW YORK — U.S. President Bill Clinton's new policy for stemming the spread of weapons of mass destruction includes some important initiatives but strikes some experts as far more modest in scope than his rhetoric led them to expect.

Outlined on Monday in his debut speech at the United Nations General Assembly, the policy seeks to make good on Mr. Clinton's campaign promises and on the belief of many in his administration that proliferation is one of the most serious challenges faced by the civilised world in the post-cold war era.

"One of our most urgent priorities must be attacking the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and biological weapons — and the ballistic missiles that can rain them down on populations hundreds of miles away," he told the U.N.

"More than a score of nations likely possess such weapons and their numbers threaten to grow ...They could turn a local conflict into a global human and environmental catastrophe," he said.

The two most ambitious elements of the plan involve pledges to try to persuade other countries to cease production of fissile materials — plutonium and highly-enriched uranium — for bomb-making and to place such materials under international inspection when withdrawn from old weapons.

The Bush administration in July 1992 stated as a matter of unilateral policy that the United States would no longer produce either of these materials for nuclear explosive devices.

Mr. Clinton would go further and aims to persuade other countries to follow suit by proposing a global treaty that would bar production of fissile materials for atomic explosives or outside of international safeguards.

To encourage broadest participation in the treaty, the United States has agreed to permit international inspection of its stockpile of fissile materials taken from old weapons.

A report in the New York Times on Sunday that Russia's inventory of bomb-grade uranium is now 1,200 tonnes — possibly twice what was previously believed — gives new urgency to this goal of trying to track and safeguard this potentially lethal material, experts say.

The non-profit Washington Council on Non-Proliferation in a recent report said that next to a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing, "a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons will be the most important new reinforcement that can be brought to the non-proliferation structure."

It warned that there has not been much work done on the concept of such a treaty and therefore unforseen difficulties might arise.

The council also predicted that a small number of key countries — such as India, Japan, France and Russia which have breeder reactors — are not likely to agree to halt all plutonium production.

Senior U.S. officials said a particular target of this kind of initiative is India and Pakistan, two countries now engaged in what Washington considers unsafeguarded nuclear programmes.

"It shows a lot of good intentions and certainly it reflects the right spirit," former U.S. negotiator Jack Mendelsohn said of the policy Mr. Clinton outlined.

"But there's not a lot new ...It ties together old threads ...The word bold would not come to mind as a descriptive adjective of this presentation," added Mr. Mendelsohn, now deputy director of the Private Arms Control Association.

He said the fissile material cutoff appears to be the most significant aspect of the initiative but said many important details were left unclear.

Mousse and Pâté for Autumn Tea Parties

By L. Vogel

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JAPAN CHAMBER & TEXTILE

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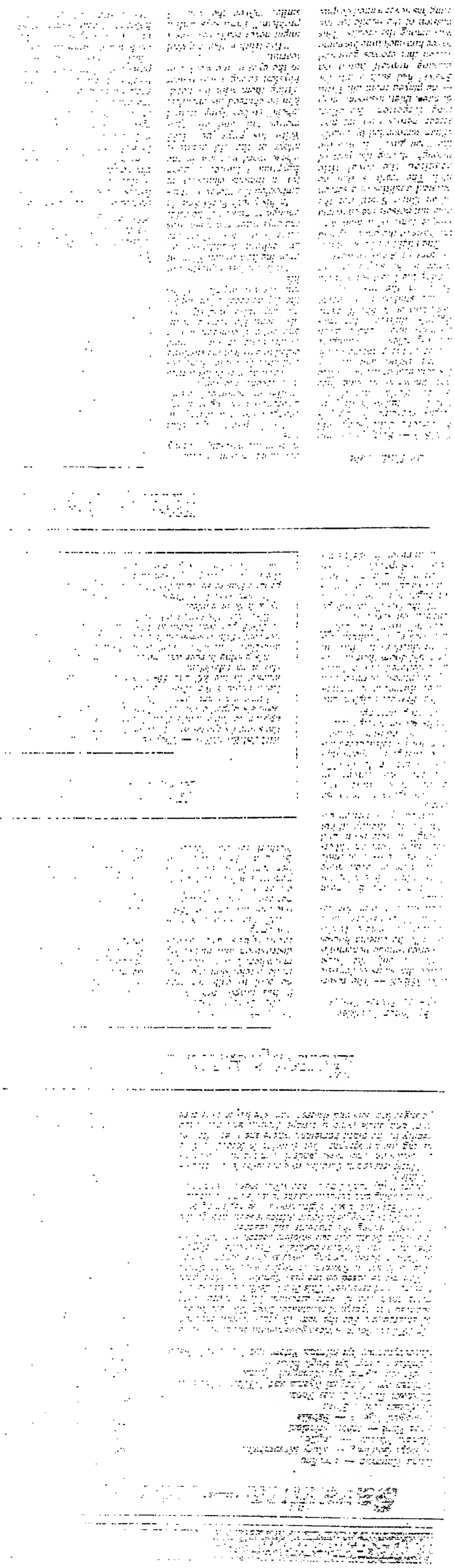

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The arduous road to higher education

How to get a visa for studies in the U.S.

By Ian Anslie(?)

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To many Jordanian secondary school students, the U.S. is the premier place to go for a college education. And as of the academic year 1991-92, Jordan, with [illegible] students enrolled in American universities, ranked first among Arab countries in this category. A degree from a U.S. university is commonly believed to give its holder strong preferential status in the Jordanian professional job market.

However, for [illegible] Al Tal, director of AMIDEAST, a U.S.-sponsored information centre for higher studies in the U.S., the "[illegible] affair" between Jordanian students and American universities has a major portion of problems and [illegible].

[illegible] often the work of advising and aiding the groups of eager young men and women who come to AMIDEAST ends up in [illegible] for the students and frustration for the counselors at the centre.

"There is a conflict that we [illegible]," Ms. Tal says. "We see hundreds and thousands of students and many are very serious about studying in the United States, but when [illegible] of AMIDEAST [illegible] them advice on how to properly [illegible] an education in the U.S., they are just not very [illegible] and they do not believe that these are the right procedures."

In addition, Ms. Tal says, between 80 and [illegible] per cent of all students who apply for a visa at the U.S. embassy have not done an adequate job of meeting embassy standards which qualify them as bona fide students.

Some might dismiss Ms. Tal's statements as the words of yet another western [illegible] who comes to the [illegible] and [illegible] the "wayward" [illegible] of [illegible] students. But the U.S. embassy in Jordan is well known to be a difficult place to [illegible] visa of any sort and even "good cases" for a student visa are rejected [illegible] for various reasons, according to Ms. Tal. [illegible] of the applicants [illegible] are not "good cases", they are almost certainly bound to be rejected.

Although, perhaps, a finger could be pointed at the consulate and its [illegible] regarding visa-granting, Ms. Tal places the [illegible] on the shoulders of the students she sees day in and day out.

The average [illegible] Ms. Tal [illegible] that she and [illegible] see at AMIDEAST [illegible] frustrated and [illegible] [illegible] system that consists of [illegible] institutions, and highly [illegible] admissions [illegible] typically [illegible] months to a year of [illegible] effort.

"They do not want to spend [illegible] at the beginning understanding what [illegible] are [illegible] and [illegible] on their own," she says.

Dr. [illegible] Yaghi, an official at the Ministry of Higher Education, [illegible]: "The students just want to go [illegible] go there and [illegible]. They do not really see [illegible] the U.S. is very big and it is [illegible] easy when you are [illegible]."

One student, [illegible], who graduated from the [illegible] Khatab public school in Amman, says that the U.S. embassy is too hasty or [illegible], that is, to reject his visa application, he says, adding that he had an admission from the University of Houston, but was turned down for a student visa because his father was deceased and his family already had two other sons studying in the U.S. The consulate officials "presumed that I had no intention to study in the States but rather that I intended to immigrate. When they questioned how my mother could afford to pay for three sons studying abroad, they dismissed the fact that we inherited sufficiently from my father."

"Not only did they presume my intentions, they advised me that it would be better for me to study in Jordan, as if they have the right to decide for me. Their questions and manner create hard feelings."

One factor which further contributes to student's frustration is that in the U.S., unlike here in Jordan, a student who plans to go to college will begin to undergo a process of taking admission tests, researching his or her options and applying to universities through correspondence approximately two years before his graduation from secondary school. Most Jordanian students are unaware of this.

"The average public in Jordan will wait till they finish secondary school and then start asking questions," says Ms. Tal. "And by then it's too late."

A second factor concerns the large network of commercial university placement offices in Jordan. There are about 40 of them altogether, 28 of which are in Amman. They are licensed by the Ministry of Higher Education, although students using them are advised to "be aware of what they are doing," as these are profit-making institutions and not official counseling centres, says Maysoon Al Khatib, director of student affairs at the ministry.

The typical placement office has a list of certain universities that it has agreements with. The student comes and selects from that list. Then, for a set fee, the office will handle the applications process on the student's behalf to the schools that he/she has chosen. The American universities that these offices deal with tend to be lower-quality institutions.

"Some of the students come to us with a list of 10 of the worst universities in the states," says Dr. Yaghi, referring to students who had come to her ministry after visiting the placement offices. But in general, and especially for colleges in the rest of the foreign countries where Jordanian students go to study besides the U.S., these offices are the standard and accepted way for students to apply.

The catch, however, is that if the U.S. embassy even suspects that a student has obtained a college admission with the help of a commercial placement office or any other party, such as a friend or relative living in the U.S., as some students do, the embassy will more than likely reject his/her request for a student visa.

Many of the students who have used the help of a second party are not even aware of the fact that they have done something wrong in the eyes of the consulate officials, and usually have no way of knowing this until they go to the embassy and are rejected, after they have spent time and money to obtain what amounts to a basically worthless admission.

"This is the missing link," maintains Ms. Tal. "The students think that they are following the right procedure, but in fact they are not."

Under U.S. immigration law, Ms. Tal said, the consulate is required to consider any applicant for a temporary visa, such as a student or tourist visa, as guilty of wanting to immigrate, and the burden is on the applicant to prove his/her innocence. And, in the embassy's opinion, there is simply no way to differentiate between a serious-minded student who has used the help of a second party in securing a college admission in order to speed up the process and someone who has obtained a quick and easy acceptance from a college in order to use it as an excuse to illicitly emigrate to the U.S. "It keeps the student in the category of 'you have not proven that you do not intend to immigrate'," Ms. Tal says.

> "Between 80 and 90 per cent of all students who apply for a visa at the U.S. embassy have not done an adequate job of meeting embassy standards which qualify them as bona fide students."

She adds that even though AMIDEAST routinely warns students against going through a commercial office, friend or relative to obtain an admission, "unfortunately, the majority of students we see do that. When we come and tell them it takes nine months to a year to get an admission, it overwhelms them... And they know that it's possible. The conflict is they know that the guy next door will take a certain fee and get it within two weeks. It is not the best admission, it is not an appropriate, applicable admission, but he will get it."

Ms. Tal stresses that she is not speaking as a spokesperson for the embassy, but out of her own personal experience and concern for the students themselves.

A student who handles his own application process, she says, goes through a process of self-selection which is the only way for him to become thoroughly prepared and understand what he must expect when he arrives in the states. "There are over 3,000 institutions in the U.S., to choose the correct and appropriate one for you, you have got to do the research. If you rely on someone else to do it for you, you'll never choose the right institution," she says.

A student going to study in the States, Ms. Tal continues, "can either make the best out of it and get an excellent education or, if you are not well prepared, and well set up from the beginning, you can go and get lost — and many have... And that is not fair to the student or to his family who are spending so much money abroad.

"It is not so much that they are not going to get the visa. My problem is if they do get the visa, and they do not know what is happening... they have just got an I-20 (admissions document) in their hands. And that, to me, is the saddest case."

Lack of preparation can hurt students as well when they graduate and return to Jordan with their degrees. Ms. Khatib says that a certain number of U.S. graduates have suffered in their equivalency procedures at the Ministry of Higher Education because their grade transcripts showed that they had transferred between as many as five or more universities in the States. "They take bits and pieces from here and there," she says.

Overall, according to her, roughly half of all U.S. graduates returned to Jordan poorly qualified in their chosen fields of study. "If you go deep into their transcripts you see that they do not master their field."

What can be done to help future Jordanian students studying abroad avoid the problems and pitfalls that have faced their predecessors?

Ms. Tal states that private school students in Jordan are, as a whole, much better prepared to study abroad than their peers from public schools who form the large majority of students she sees at AMIDEAST. In addition to the obvious advantages which they possess — superior English skills and higher levels of financial support from their families — the private school have on-campus advisors who work personally with the students to prepare them for their future studies in college.

Syria, cast in difficult role, [illegible] reluctant to play

By Ed Blanche

The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — President Hafez Assad of Syria, Israel's most implacable foe for nearly a quarter-century, holds the key to a lasting peace in the Middle East, but — as always — he's playing hard to get.

Without him, it will be extremely difficult, maybe impossible, to realise the hopes for a new era in the troubled region that have been raised by Yasser Arafat's breakthrough agreement with Israel.

Mr. Assad is under intense pressure from the United States to end the [illegible] pact and to cut a deal with Israel over the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 war. U.S. President Bill Clinton has made a number of telephone appeals.

But Mr. Assad [illegible] at the PLO chairman for going it alone [illegible] deal, is showing no sign of bending.

Israel's pact with the PLO and Jordan's willingness to [illegible] deprive Damascus of the leverage it hoped to gain from a united Arab front. But without Syria's participation in a peace settlement, Lebanon will stay out and any deal Jordan makes will be inherently unstable.

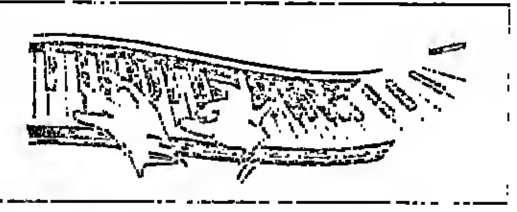
Mr. Assad apparently intends to charge as high a price as he can for climbing on the peace bandwagon.

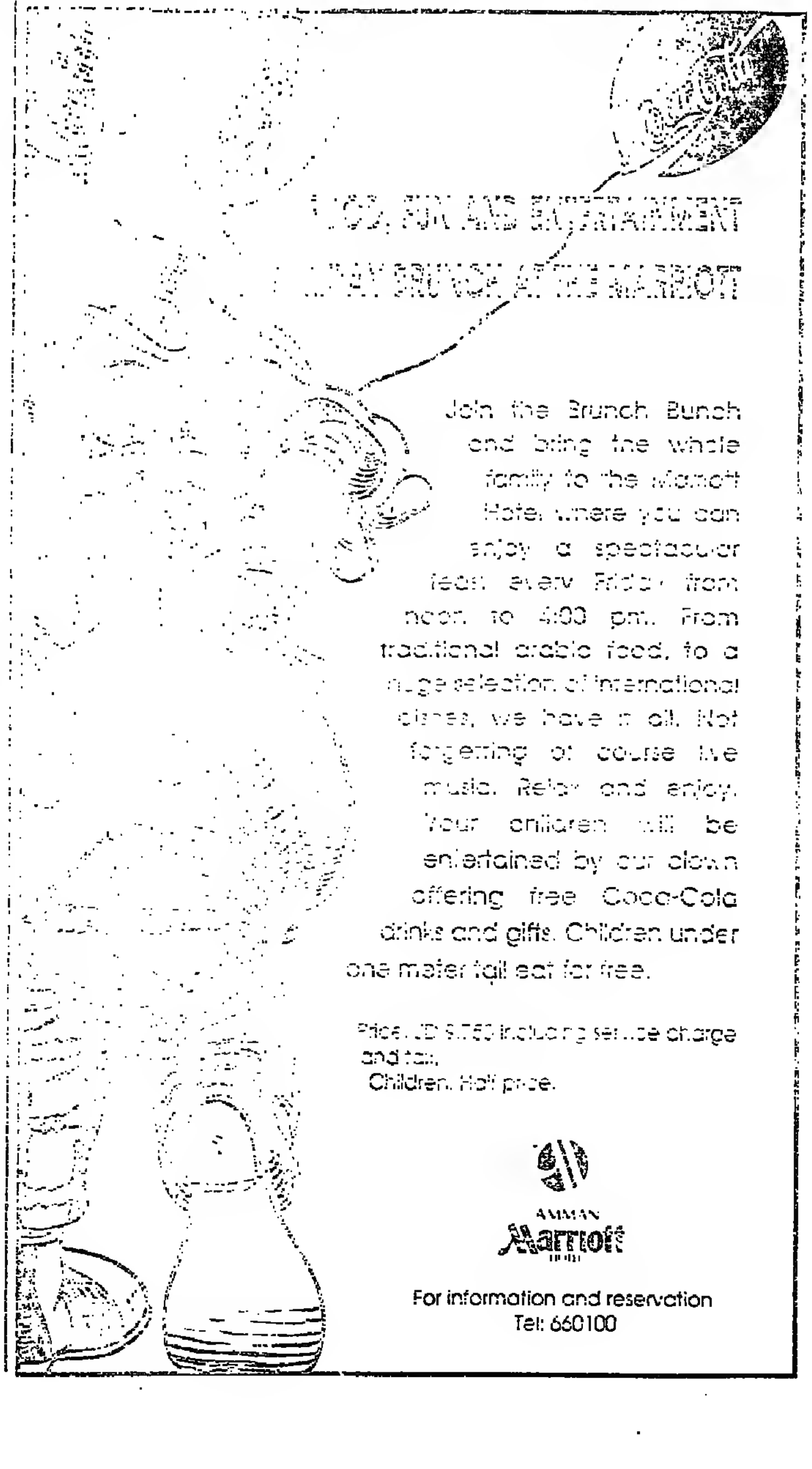
His room for manoeuvre has been constrained in the last three years, particularly by the collapse of the Soviet Union. But he still holds some high cards.

By controlling radical Palestinian groups and its alliance with Iran — a staunch opponent of the peace process, Syria retains the potential for obstruction.

Playing that card could [illegible] U.S. and [illegible] could also [illegible] Washington [illegible] Assad to play ball.

[illegible]





IMF [illegible] Bank meeting dominated by jobless fears

WASH[illegible] IMF-World [illegible] ing [illegible] plea to [illegible] dustrial [illegible]

It was [illegible] from [illegible] the global [illegible] generous [illegible] nous.

U.S. [illegible] Lloyd [illegible] with [illegible] ing [illegible] tions [illegible] Monetary [illegible] session [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] unemployment lines [illegible] billion this [illegible] the world's [illegible] to consider. [illegible] importance to all [illegible] stabilised nability [illegible] leading [illegible] sustained [illegible] Mahathir [illegible] of the Bank of [illegible]

But [illegible] Japan, with an [illegible] per cent jobless [illegible] is struggling to [illegible] worst recession [illegible] World War II. Its trou- [illegible] a 2% per cent [illegible] which sliced [illegible] to the bone [illegible] has left it not [illegible] unemployed.

[illegible] cut interest [illegible] to a post-war [illegible] per cent and [illegible] as economic demand. It [illegible] the pressure from [illegible] about lagging de- [illegible] industries.

[illegible] climate, Tokyo is [illegible] The world's [illegible] signalled this [illegible] will take a less [illegible] on the world [illegible] on projects [illegible] in Asia, the Americans being an unexpected [illegible]

[illegible] emerging from this [illegible] meeting of top finance officials is broad support for [illegible] cooperation tem- [illegible] over growing domes- [illegible] concerns and a real shortage [illegible] around the world.

[illegible] little surprise [illegible] when the Group of Seven (G-7) threw their weight behind Russian President Boris Yeltsin over the weekend but did not take out their cheque books to back him up.

It has been clear for some time that the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — don't have all the money to help Russia's shrinking-economy transform to capitalism.

In an encouraging sign, a top Russian official said Moscow expects to win more time to pay off $5 billion in debts to the United States, paving the way for more grain purchases ahead of the winter.

The IMF, however, is unwilling to dole out any funds before Moscow takes tough reform action, since that would be like throwing money into a sink hole.

"Impatient as we are to provide effective assistance, we shall not disperse these resources in support of poor policies, because that would be a breach of our duties," Mr. Camdessus said.

One notable exception in the tight-fistedness, however, was the Middle East. The Japanese said they plan to send about $200 million in assistance over two years to help Palestinians create a homeland in th Gaza and West Bank.

Another was Vietnam. Hanoi, with the help of other rich nations, paid off $140 million in overdue debts to the IMF on Monday, opening the way for up to $1 billion in aid.

World Bank ready to aid Gaza, Vietnam and S. Africa

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Tuesday that it was ready to move ahead quickly with financial help for South Africa, Vietnam and the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to rapid changes in the global political climate.

"Global economic and financial relationships are ... being transformed," Bank President Lewis Preston said at the opening of his group's joint annual meeting with the International Monetary Fund. "We will continue to change to meet the needs of our members."

Mr. Preston, who has been rumoured to be considering retiring from the bank following recent heart surgery, made clear that he intended to stick around to help get the job done.

"I am looking forward to working with all of you in the challenging years ahead," Mr. Preston said.

He said that the bank was ready to do its part to help ensure the success of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. "We are well prepared to invest in peace," he said.

The bank has drawn up a $3 billion, 10-year public investment plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The plan is expected to top the agenda when the United States and other donor nations meet Friday to discuss ways of helping the Palestinians.

"In South Africa too, over the last several years, the bank has been working with all the parties involved to design a programme that can address the country's most urgent needs," Mr. Preston said.

The African National Congress (ANC) paved the way for potential borrowing by South Africa from the World Bank and the IMF last week when it called for the lifting of economic sanctions imposed by the West to combat apartheid.

ANC officials have [illegible] though that [illegible] to wait [illegible] the Bank [illegible] being caught in the "[illegible]" that has [illegible] African nations.

Mr. Preston [illegible] Vietnam's "[illegible] ability" to reform its [illegible] and signalled that the World Bank is preparing to [illegible] lending.

ILO urges better conditions for seamen

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) said Tuesday many merchant seamen were living and working in abnormal conditions that often led to accidents in the maritime industry.

The United Nations body's deputy director-general, Herbert Maier issued the charge at the opening of a meeting of experts preparing an updated version of the ILO's code of practice on accident prevention at sea and in ports.

"Though conditions on board many ships meet or exceed ILO minimum standards, there are also many examples of sub-standard conditions," Mr. Maier declared.

"The ILO regularly receives information on quite disgraceful conditions relating, for example, to poor accommodation, inadequate or inappropriate food and abandonment of entire crews," he added, but he gave no details.

Mr. Maier said governments and world bodies, especially the London-based International Maritime Organisation, had worked hard to raise standards amid major changes in the industry since the code was formulated in 1977.

These changes, he said, included the establishment of many new registers, extensive use of ship managers, and the engagement of more seafarers from developing countries, as well as technological advances.

The ILO officer said the industry should look more deeply into the link between human error at sea and sub-standard working and living conditions, which he said could be a major underlying cause of accidents and pollution incidents.

It was generally recognised that up to 80 per cent of accidents could be attributed to human error, but investigation often focussed on whether seamen had followed procedures rather than on the reasons for mistakes being committed, he declared.

British finance chief signals tax rise to target consumer spending

WASHINGTON (R) — British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke signalled Tuesday that he intends to concentrate expected tax increases next year on consumers, instead of businesses, and on consumption, instead of income.

"I want to see a (British) recovery that is sustained over the rest of the decade and beyond," Mr. Clarke told the International Monetary Fund/World Bank annual meeting. "A recovery that is driven by investment and exports, not consumption."

That can be achieved by avoiding heavy taxes on businesses and by targeting consumer taxes on consumption, instead of on income or savings. "That means relying, wherever possible, on indirect rather than direct taxation," Mr. Clarke added.

Britain has a budget gap of some £50 billion in 1993/94 and Mr. Clarke is currently wrestling over how best to bring it down ahead of the Nov. 30 presentation of next year's budget.

The chancellor said getting the deficit down over the medium term is a key part of his strategy of promoting investment-led, export-driven growth via the private sector.

To help bring that about, the government must keep its running costs, especially its public sector pay bill, under the "firmest possible control" within the confines of its tight spending ceilings, he said.

That, in turn, will leave room to target government spending on productive investment and essential public services.

Mr. Clarke saw "some encouraging signs" that Britain was making progress in the battle to reduce unemployment but acknowledged that "there is still a long way to go."

Britain has made gains against unemployment by making its labour markets more flexible — reducing the power of unions, removing restrictions on employers and encouraging the creation of small businesses.

"But we cannot be complacent," Mr. Clarke said. "The sustainability of the recovery in the United Kingdom will inevitably depend upon progress elsewhere, especially in the countries of the European Community."

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) warned that British manufacturers are likely to increase output over the rest of this year, but the recession in continental Europe may put a brake on recovery here.

The CBI's September survey found that manufacturers expected output to continue rising over the next four months.

But the percentage of firms reporting below-normal orders was almost twice as high as those with above-normal books, and export demand has weakened since August.

"The recession throughout the rest of Europe is a major cause for concern. Export order books ... are now substantially below the levels seen in the early summer," said David Lees, chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee.

The CBI polled 1,468 firms between Aug. 27 and Sept. 15.

Paris sees $7b from privatisation in 199[illegible]

PARIS (R) — The French government expects to raise around [illegible] billion from privatisation next year, the [illegible] Edouard Balladur said [illegible] Figure dwarfs [illegible] This year's [illegible] raised [illegible] The sale of [illegible] shortly. [illegible] France raised about [illegible] francs in [illegible] tion of Renault [illegible] Paris is likely to [illegible] or more. Drug giant [illegible] group Rhone-Poulenc [illegible] on the block [illegible] In all, the country [illegible] ment, aiming to [illegible] to sell off [illegible] several hundred [illegible] (close to [illegible] billion) over the [illegible]

[illegible] as mining giant

[illegible] — [illegible] Mining Ltd. will own 7.1 [illegible] from 70 per cent [illegible] "[illegible] hold in one pot [illegible] our pots," Julian [illegible] chairman [illegible] and Minorco [illegible] meeting. This [illegible] the international [illegible] and [illegible] the man- [illegible]

[illegible] will give it holds [illegible] 25 per cent of the [illegible] other jumps [illegible] 25 per cent in size. [illegible] the deal [illegible] African interests [illegible] a stake in investment [illegible] and Zambia as [illegible] normalise relations with South Africa.

"[illegible] and Zambia are [illegible] for us," he said. [illegible] flows [illegible] of South Africa [illegible] membership of the [illegible] he pointed [illegible]

[illegible] statement, Anglo [illegible] said "The [illegible] political changes taking place in South Africa now make it possible for South African companies to operate more freely internationally and to play a more active role in the development of international interests."

For Minorco the agreement represents the realisation of its long-south desire to transform itself from an investment company into a world-class mining company.

Under the deal Minorco will have about 21 per cent of its assets in South America, 32 per cent in North America, 21 per cent in Europe and five per cent in South East Asia and Australia and the remaining 22 per cent still in cash reserves.

It doubles its gold production and will become a major copper miner, winning control of Empresa Minera de Mantos Blanco S.A., with its stake in the big Collahuasi copper project in Chile, and a 79 per cent stake of the Manto Verde Mine, also in Chile, and 81 per cent of the Quellaveco copper deposit in Peru.

New York Times takeover of Boston Globe approved

[illegible] deal in U.S. press [illegible] Chairman Wil- [illegible] the publisher of [illegible] whose family has [illegible] Times Co. since 1896. [illegible] announced the vote at a brief and subdued special shareholders' meeting.

At an earlier meeting shareholders of the New York Times Co. Inc. also approved the deal, which was first announced in June.

The newspaper industry increasingly has become dominated by a handful of powerful media conglomerates, which control fewer dailies nationwide.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Parson Astrologer Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Cyclic changes that seem to be knocking at your door should be in no way precipitated by you this Full Moon in Aries. Thursday or you may find yourself experiencing separation from positive conditions that are good for you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look to those in power who know their subject from all angles and take pointers from them how best to advance your interests in the days ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look for some new recreations at which you can put your ability at enjoying yourself and at the same time showing some of your creative skills.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do to build a more secure foundation with your own clan by having conditions at your residence more as everyone desires.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Getting together with some outside associates and discussing future plans for more joint success can produce excellent income results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now have it in your power to see ways to increase your funds by some extra work or getting more out of your present source of supply abilities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make all kinds of interesting arrangements for the good times that attract and that appeal to you so that in the evening you can build energy.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind concerning quietly effectuating more peace and tranquility at your home can now be easily put into motion by your efforts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what requires a better understanding with your usual allies and make a point to go see them and straighten out any confusing matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for the various practical suggestions you need and get in touch with the most experienced person available to aid you to solve such issues.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about the various new ideas that you have from a highly personal view and you can get out of them considerable benefits for yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind for getting rid of obligations that have become intermittent bings to light some new means by which to handle these.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well the various wishes of both friends and outside associates and you will be able to make considerable progress towards your ambitions.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Parson Astrologer Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Getting the right philosophy of Life could be very important for you at this time if you are truly seeking happiness and success in the future that will require the expansion of mind as well as spirit.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A person with whom you have any contact in the outside world can be helpful to you in attaining the things you want most so don't hesitate to seek their assistance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good day for you to look about you and to make your environment more as suits your purpose and so you have more comfort at that site.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about the various amusements that attract you and your mate the most and make arrangements to enjoy them during oncoming free times.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Brightening up your residence can be a natural for you today and especially in whatever you have decided to do but haven't gotten around to finish.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can tighten up the bond that exists between you and usual associates and especially kin and neighbours by some over act that would please them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put some extra repairs or colour to your property that will increase its value as well as its appearance which your sense of order can easily arrange.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You like to look neat and as if you just stepped out of a fashion show and you can now do those things which will give you even more of this impression.

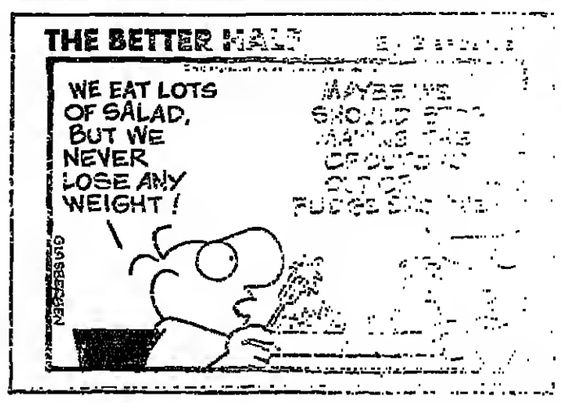
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Delve into those various mysterious condition which you so enjoy unravelling and you can get the correct answers that will aid your progress.

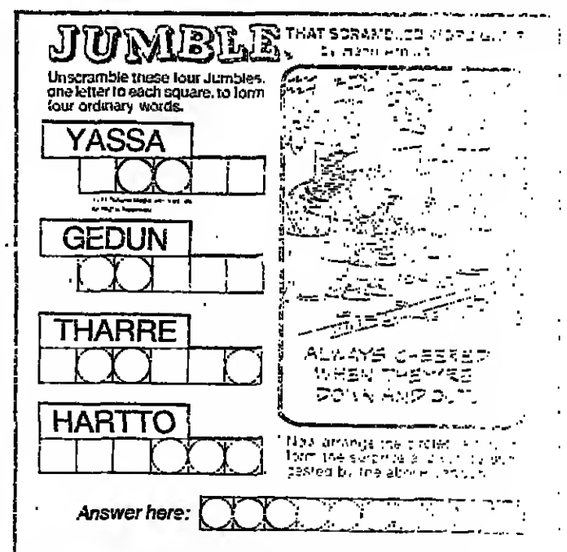
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Join with as many good friends as possible and also make an acquaintance you like very much realise you want to closer in your relationship.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make a special point to use tact in the outside world today for you can greatly enhance your public standing by such a desirable attitude now.

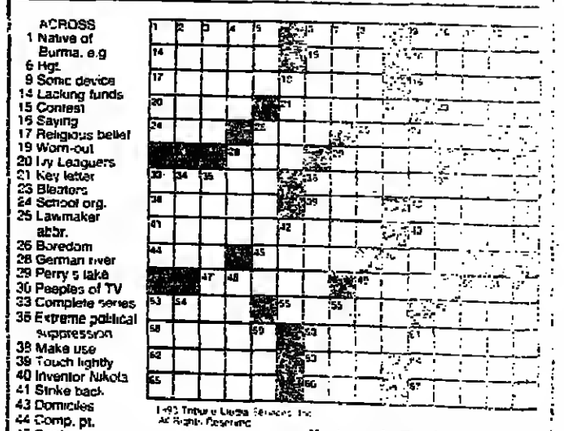
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about the various new outlets in which you can engage with some interesting persons of varied views and background to your own and you get ahead rapidly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A truly cooperative stance towards the one closest to you now can produce excellent new harmonious relationship that quickly deeply matures.





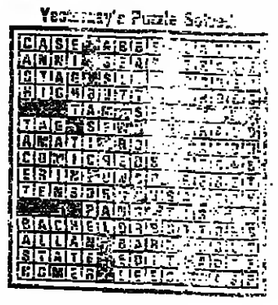
THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. [illegible]



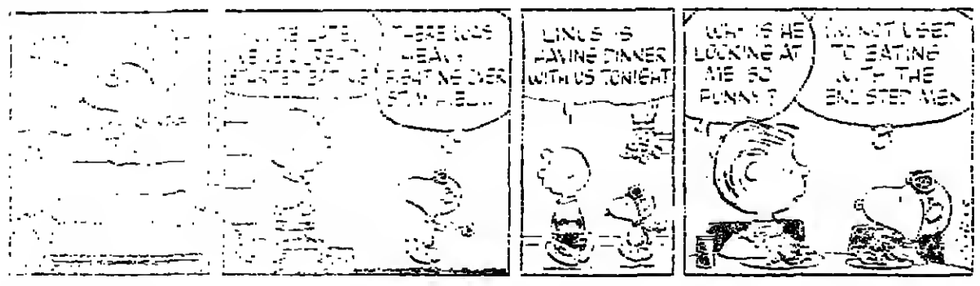
ACROSS
1 Native of Burma, e.g
6 Hgt.
9 Sonic device
14 Lacking funds
15 Contest
16 Saying
17 Religious belief
19 Worn-out
20 Ivy Leaguers
21 Key letter
23 Bleaters
24 School org.
25 Lawmaker abbr.
26 Boredom
28 German river
29 Perry's lake
30 Peeples of TV
33 Complete series
36 Extreme political suppression
38 Make use
39 Touch lightly
40 Inventor Nikola
41 Strike back
43 Domiciles
44 Comp. pt.
45 Goals
46 Lager
47 Military student
49 Despot
50 Article
53 Comedian Bert
55 Challenged
57 Kind of exam
58 Take for — (defraud)
60 Violent upheaval
62 "The Sun Also —"
63 Amorad
64 Stickum
66 Curses
65 Unhappy
67 Following

DOWN
1 Diving venue
2 Missile rock
3 Region of Asia Minor
4 — and crafts
5 Certain degree
6 Birdlike
7 Speak in a way
8 A zone
9 Be a tattletale
10 Goodbye
11 Belief in natural selection
12 American author
13 Ohio team
18 — out (supplements)
22 Indigo dye
25 Sniffed
27 Not one or the other
28 Lamb
29 Les — Unis
31 — of Wight
32 Amo, —, amat
33 Be concerned
34 Actor Montand
35 Question-and-answer process
36 Roman gladiator
37 Kind of light
42 Angered
46 "I — little pony"
48 English forest
49 Distributes
50 Social meeting
51 Speed
52 "— Gamy"
53 Cooking fat
54 Song
56 Pt. —
57 Newspaper [illegible]
59 Curse
61 Ms. [illegible]

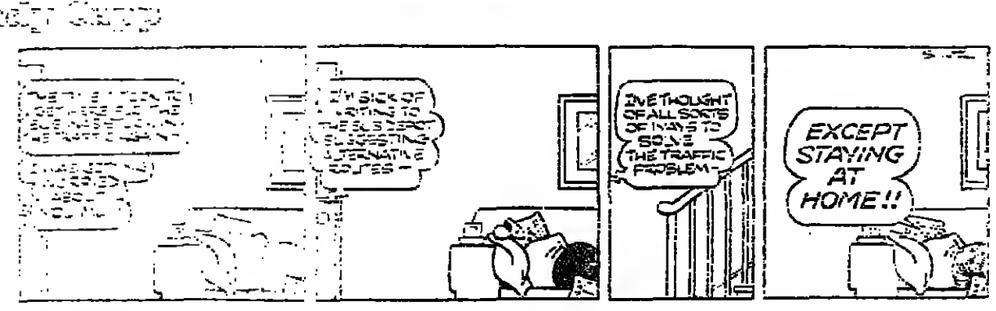
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



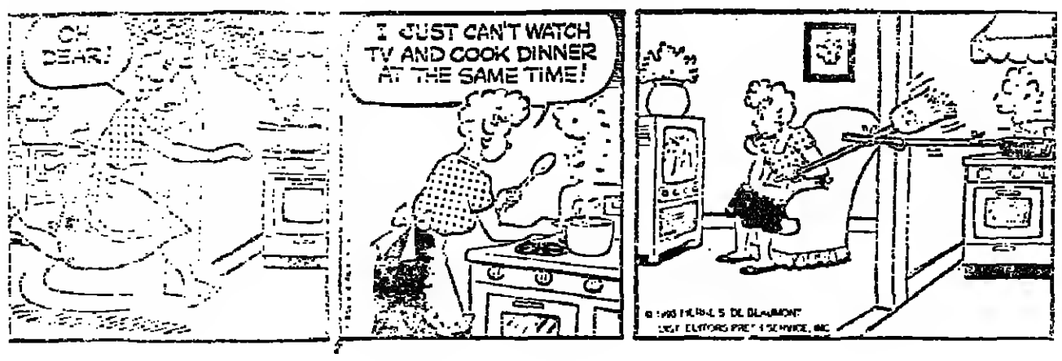
Peanuts



Family Circus



Blondie



هكذا من الأصل

Economy

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/09/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	220,750	179.000	181.000	181.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	52,370	6.050	6.150	6.150
BANK OF JORDAN	7,948	4.250	4.200	4.250
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	89,700	1.990	2.020	2.060
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	38,723	4.050	4.100	4.080
THE HOUSING BANK	91,340	5.500	5.600	5.780
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	160,086	3.120	3.120	3.130
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	5,896	4.040	4.060	4.080
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	26,322	3.900	4.000	4.050
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	728	4.800	4.850	4.850
BUSINESS BANK	15,240	4.300	4.340	4.350
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	6,394	6.400	6.350	6.350
BETT ELMAL REVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	31,340	4.400	4.550	4.620
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	230,416	1.820	1.880	1.860
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	7,457	4.300	4.370	4.360
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	50,188	3.580	2.610	3.640
JORDAN INSURANCE	3,850	3.800	3.850	3.850
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	136	2.650	2.720	3.720
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	7,455	2.600	3.550	3.550
YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	325	3.400	3.250	3.250
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,830	3.030	3.050	3.050
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	3,700	3.600	3.600	3.600
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	234,847	2.400	2.450	2.450
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	968	1.240	1.290	1.290
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	3,367	7.300	7.000	7.000
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	40,685	4.670	4.750	4.890
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	16,211	0.670	0.680	0.690
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	11,746	4.000	4.060	4.030
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	14,739	1.660	1.670	1.700
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	3,872	0.520	0.530	0.540
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	324	3.000	3.000	3.000
MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	10,886	1.120	1.120	1.140
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	14,070	20.000	20.350	20.000
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	530	10.190	10.600	10.600
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	45,396	2.340	2.250	2.260
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	28,810	2.650	3.700	1.740
ATTAHQEEQ CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	4,818	2.050	2.050	1.050
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	733,183	2.900	2.970	3.020
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	49,928	10.350	10.450	10.690
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMEPCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	19,813	7.250	7.350	7.410
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	27,395	11.120	11.300	11.150
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	91,161	8.500	8.800	8.700
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	31,915	7.450	7.500	7.450
JORDAN DAIRY	56,259	3.800	2.660	2.660
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	16,953	3.800	3.820	3.800
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	3,039	4.000	4.050	4.050
THE PUBLIC MINING	878	2.790	2.930	2.930
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	4,250	21.000	30.500	33.000
SPINNING & WEAVING	4,903	3.530	3.600	3.630
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	13,698	0.370	0.350	0.390
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	191,175	16.000	16.500	16.500
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	5,359	3.480	3.550	3.570
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	51,230	9.550	9.700	9.900
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3,198	1.690	1.730	1.700
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	913	0.300	0.280	0.300
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	11,234	5.450	5.450	5.500
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	7,408	3.600	3.600	3.650
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	1,531	2.550	2.550	2.510
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	6,673	7.000	7.000	7.050
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	13,543	0.360	0.370	0.380
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	43,668	8.200	8.300	8.320
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	5,304	3.630	3.730	3.700
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	12,787	3.400	3.500	3.500
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	6,967	3.440	1.480	3.500
KANTHER INVESTMENT	2,423	2.500	2.500	2.600
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	33,524	5.400	5.500	5.450
G R A N D T O T A L	2,916,281			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 84376
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 109121

Amman Financial Market looks ...

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's publicly-traded companies are poised to benefit from a future Palestinian economy but political uncertainty could cut into near-term gains, analysts say.

Many brokers believe the Amman Financial Market's (AFM's) 108 listed companies will gain across the board as historic and demographic links tie Jordan to a West Bank economy.

"The West Bank is potentially an extended market that would increase Jordanian companies' business by at least 50 per cent," said senior banker Mifleh Aqel.

"All stocks will benefit across the board and construction firms in particular," said Hani Qaqish, deputy general manager of the Amman Bank of Investments.

But the uncertainties have been underscored by the market's recent performance.

In the past two months the market's trading volumes have declined from record highs of more than 171 million dinars ($248.5 million) in monthly trading in June to less than 55.5 million dinars ($77 million) for most of September — due partly to political uncertainty over the PLO-Israeli accord.

The market's listed companies are mostly privately-owned, publicly traded companies with only a handful of well-established companies in main industries with large government holdings.

Analysts say Palestinian companies going public would be more likely to turn to the Amman Financial Market rather than the larger Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Most of the Amman market's listed companies are industrials, with service companies and banks forming the next biggest sectors. More than 15 companies are traded in a growing market for new issues as investors are drawn to offers of cheap stock.

Among the expected winners in a post-peace Middle East:

— Banks which had a pre-1967 presence in the territories are particularly likely to gain. Share prices of Jordan's leading Arab Bank, which has a historically strong base in the West Bank, have risen more than 15 per cent since the PLO-Israel peace accord.

Other banks including Bank of Jordan, Jordan National Bank and Arab Land Bank concluded technical arrangements with the Israeli central bank before the PLO-Israel accord upset their plans. It is not clear on what terms they will not ...

— Jord ...

KLM to resume flights to Amman

The president of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Pieter Bouw said during his visit to Jordan on Sept. 25 1993 that KLM would resume its full operations to Jordan effective Nov. 1, 1993.

The airline, which started serving Jordan in 1960, is now operating one flight on their own and three in cooperation with Cyprus Airways. As of Oct. 31, 1993, and from Nov. 1 1993, KLM will have three direct flights a week to Amman, operated with Airbus A310 aircrafts.

KLM shows their commitment and confidence in Jordan, said Mr. Bouw, praising the excellent relation that exists between Royal Jordanian and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Royal Jordanian uses Amsterdam, the hnme base of KLM as its hub in Europe.

Financial Markets — **Jordan Times** in co-operation with **Cairo Amman Bank**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 28/9/93	Tokyo Close Date 29/9/93
Sterling Pound	1.5140	1.5125
Deutsche Mark	1.6123	1.6120
Swiss Franc	1.4115	1.4104
French Franc	5.6373	5.6501**
Japanese Yen	105.01	105.23
European Currency Unit	1.1773	1.1770**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening to 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates — Date: 29/9/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.09	3.25	3.25	3.37
Sterling Pound	5.93	5.75	5.69	5.62
Deutsche Mark	6.81	6.56	6.37	5.87
Swiss Franc	4.62	4.50	4.43	4.12
French Franc	7.06	6.93	6.67	6.15
Japanese Yen	2.50	2.50	2.46	2.43
European Currency Unit	7.62	7.50	7.18	6.56

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin — Date: 29/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0422	1.0474
Deutsche Mark	0.4271	0.4292
Swiss Franc	0.4884	0.4908
French Franc	0.1222	0.1228
Japanese Yen*	0.6540	0.6573
Dutch Guilder	0.3807	0.3826
Swedish Krona	*****	******
Italian Lira	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies — Date: 29/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6050	1.6350
Lebanese Lira	0.039375	0.040547
Saudi Riyal (R)	0.1834	0.1851
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1877
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2220
Omani Riyal	1.7570	1.7950
UAE Dirham	0.1867	0.1877
Greek Drachma*	0.2895	0.3265
Cyprus Pound	1.3715	1.3955

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

1.3225/35	Canadian dollar
1.6110/20	Deutschemarks
1.8090/00	Dutch guilders
1.4090/97	Swiss francs
34.61/64	Belgian francs
5.6350/50	French francs
1570.0/2.0	Italian lire
105.40/50	Japanese yen
8.0100/30	Swedish crowns
7.0680/80	Norwegian crowns
6.5310/10	Danish crowns
$1.5095/05	
$354.30/354.80	

Khmer Rouge captures enclave; Sihanouk rules out civil war

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The Cambodian government said Wednesday that the radical Khmer Rouge have captured an enclave in western Cambodia and staged a number of attacks in the centre of the country in retaliation for a recent offensive.

"This shows the Khmer Rouge are not sincere about peace," said Deputy Information Minister Ek Sereywath.

"The Khmer Rouge are not willing to give their territory to the new government of Cambodia, especially to the king," he said.

Cambodia's government, headed by newly crowned King Norodom Sihanouk, has pleaded for the guerrillas to lay down their weapons and give up their zones.

The attacks in Kompong Thom on Sept. 19 were aimed at 700 civilian homes in the Krayia area, which was captured by government forces in an August offensive, he said.

Some 500 troops from the Khmer Rouge Division 616 defected in Kompong Thom during that offensive, but Mr. Ek Sereywath said the retaliation was carried out by reinforcements from the notorious Khmer Rouge General Ta Mok further north.

A number of casualties were reported, he said.

The enclave near the border with Thailand, called Sok Sann, was held by the former Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) — which has since been integrated into the new government army — and was captured on Sept. 23, Mr. Ek Sereywath said.

The Khmer Rouge are believed to have captured 10 former KPNLF officers and executed two of them, he said.

The some 900 members of the besieged Sok Sann enclave had asked the Thai government to alllow them safe passage through Thai territory and back into areas controlled by the Cambodian government. The Thai military did the same for the Khmer Rouge in August, saying that it first disarmed the guerrillas.

The Cambodian government feared the Khmer Rouge would attack the Sok Sann enclave in retaliation for the offensive that drove Khmer Rouge guerrillas out of northwest Cambodia in August.

But the Thai government officially turned down the request last week, saying it would violate Thai sovereignty if it allowed the passage of armed troops.

The Khmer Rouge allowed about half the population of Sok Sann to travel through their zone to a safer area earlier this month, the U.N. peacekeeping force had said.

The United Nations also turned down a request by the Cambodian government to evacuate Sok Sann, calling it too dangerous.

U.N. peacekeepers were taken out of Sok Sann in March after the Khmer Rouge hit a U.N. resupply helicopter with anti-aircraft fire and ground resupply through Thailand became difficult due to the impending rainy season.

The Khmer Rouge are not capable of dragging Cambodia into a protracted civil war even if they continue to defy the new government, King Norodom Sihanouk said Wednesday.

"I don't say civil war because the Khmer Rouge are so weak, isolated and abandoned. Every day there are Khmer Rouge defectors," the king said during a visit to the small village of Chbar Morn in Kompong Speu province about 60 kilometres south of the capital.

The king, flanked by Queen Monique, government officials and Buddhist monks, addressed a crowd of some 500 villagers before giving them gifts of rice, noodles and blankets.

Also handing out gift-parcels to the gathering was the king's errant son Prince Norodom Chakrapong, who recently returned from Malaysia where he had been staying since playing a leading role in an aborted secessionist movement in June.

Prince Chakrapong announced the establishment of a short-lived autonomous zone in eastern Cambodia to protest the victory of the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party, led by his half-brother and bitter enemy, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in the May U.N.-organised polls.

King Sihanouk told the crowd that Cambodia was now a democracy and that he considered the people his "master."

"I am not corrupt," he said to tumultuous applause. "I have only my body to serve the nation."

The king then said he intended to host round-table talks between the government and the Khmer Rouge in early November.

"All eight million (Cambodians) are the children of King Sihanouk even if they are red (Rouge), blue, green or yellow that is why we need to negotiate," the king said.

The Khmer Rouge have to offer to give their resource-rich jungle headquarters at Pailin and the other zones under their control to the government, the king said.

"Pailin is very, very important not just because it is the richest region in Cambodia but there is a principle," the king said. "We will not allow the country to be divided."

The Khmer Rouge have said they wanted an advisory role in the new government but more recently upped the ante by demanding ministerial posts.

The guerrillas have refused to meet the government's preconditions that they first lay down their arms and open up their zones.

Co-Premier Hun Sen said Tuesday that he thought there was only a one per cent chance of the round-table talks being successful.

Russia evacuates more civilians from Abkhazia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — More than 2,800 refugees from Abkhazia arrived in the southwestern Georgian port of Poti Wednesday after being evacuated from the conflict zone aboard Russian naval vessels, ITAR-TASS News Agencies said.

Meanwhile one Russian paratrooper was killed and two others seriously wounded overnight in an attack by unknown assailants on a guard post at a Russian military building outside the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi, Interfax said.

The evacuation of the refugees from Abkhazia was the last of several such operations organised by Russian vessels of the Black Sea Fleet which have evacuated some 14,000 elderly persons, women and children from the battle zone in the past few days, ITAR-TASS said.

The Black Sea Fleet commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin, said that one of the vessels used in the last evacuation operation was fired on without warning, but there were no casualties, Interfax said.

Meanwhile a Georgian military spokesman said Wednesday lack of discipline among Georgian troops defending Sukhumi was a major reason for the fall of the city to separatists.

Abkhazian forces captured Sukhumi Monday in one of the fiercest battles during 13 months of conflict for control of the lush region on the Black Sea coast.

Col. Soso Margishvili told reporters in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi that undisciplined Georgian forces abandoned the strategic high ground in Sukhumi without a shot being fired. Loss of the high ground sealed the city's fate, he said.

He said some 5,000 armed Georgians still had control of Sukhumi airport and that several thousand reinforcements camped across the nearby Kodori River were attempting to join them. "The fighting continues," he said.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who escaped Tuesday from Sukhumi after its capture, accused the Russian military of plotting the city's fall.

"My conviction is that the plan for the occupation of Sukhumi has been drawn up in Russian headquarters," Mr. Shevardnadze told a news conference after his return to Tbilisi.

Georgians have previously accused hardline elements in the Russian army of trying to gain control of Abkhazia because of its strategic location on the Black Sea, beautiful resorts and some important military installations, including a seismic laboratory that monitors nuclear tests throughout the Middle East.

Mr. Shevardnadze accused the separatist forces of carrying out atrocities as they took the city. "As soon as they entered the city, they executed scores of officials, policemen and ordinary citizens," he said.

Shevardnadze promised that Georgia would recapture Sukhumi.

"If this generation is unable to do it, the next will," he said.

The loss of Sukhumi was a major strategic and politic' blow to Mr. Shevardnadze, who said the government's defeat could lead to Georgia's disintegration into civil war between ethnic minorities.

Mr. Shevardnadze took back all the concessions he had promised Moscow while there was still a chance of saving Sukhumi, including an offer to bring Georgia into the Soviet Union's successor, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"After what has happened, it is impossible to talk of Georgia joining the CIS because Russia has deceived us," he told an emergency cabinet meeting later.

He also demanded that the former Soviet army, now under Russian control but still present in Georgia, hand over its weapons.

Shevardnadze's outbursts of fury revealed the deep disappointment of a man who won worldwide recognition as Moscow's foreign minister in the perestroika era of the 1980s but now believes he has been duped by his own former colleagues.

The Georgian leader now faces a second insurrection closer to home in western Georgia, where ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia is gathering forces hostile to Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a fiery nationalist elected in May 1991 but chased from his capital in a bloody uprising seven months later, has spent nearly two years in exile but made a dramatic return last week as the siege of Sukhumi entered a decisive stage.

He sent troops to fight alongside government forces in Sukhumi, saying contemptuously that Mr. Shevardnadze's men were incapable of saving the city

Mr. Gamsakhurdia aides said by telephone from western Georgia's local capital, Zugdidi, that he was spending Tuesday at the Abkhazian frontline which has moved south of Sukhumi.

An Abkhazian spokesman contacted from Moscow said his forces were trying to link up with Abkhaz troops in the Ochamchira district and take the town of Ochamchira, which is in Georgian hands.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia sees expanded U.N. role

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Russia could not stem the turmoil in the former Soviet Union without some kind of financial and material help for its peacekeeping operations. In contrast to President Bill Clinton's address to the U.N. General Assembly Monday, Mr. Kozyrev called for an expanded activist United Nations that should respond to most emergencies quickly. "In the majority of cases... the United Nations should issue a mandate for operations conducted at the request of the conflicting parties," he said. The foreign minister cited what he called successful Russian peacekeeping efforts in two ex-Soviet hotspots — the transdneistr region of Moldova and South Ossetia, a remote corner of Georgia. He made little mention in his prepared speech about the rebel Georgian region of Abkhazia.

Australians swing against republic

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's republican movement received what its loyalist opponents described Wednesday as a major blow in the shape of a new poll indicating monarchists are back in the majority here. The poll, published by the Australian National Daily, indicated a slump in support for the republic, favoured by Prime Minister Paul Keating, from 46 per cent in April and July to 39 per cent in September. Mr. Keating's personal popularity and that of his Labour government have also slumped in the polls, particularly since the August budget. Taken amid the patriotic fervour that followed Sydney's victory in the race to host the 2000 Olympics, the poll showed public sentiment which had then appeared to be rising steadily in favour of the republic had gone into reverse. Opposition to the republic rose from 36 per cent in July to 44 per cent this month with 17 per cent uncommitted.

Pakistani politician killed

MULTAN, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani politician Ghulam Haider Wyne, a close associate of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was shot dead Wednesday while campaigning for next month's national elections, police said. Mr. Wyne, a former chief minister of Punjab and a candidate for the National Assembly (lower house of parliament) in the Oct. 6 vote, was killed at Nusratpur in northeast Pakistan while returning from a meeting, police said. Four or five gunmen stopped his car on the road, smashed a sidescreen and shot him with a rifle, police in nearby Khanewal town said. "The attackers then pulled his body out of the car to see whether he was dead and then fled from the scene," a police official said. Three men accompanying Mr. Wyne were pulled out of the car before the shooting, he said. Police said they believed the gunmen were from the local Maluka tribe, which had blamed Mr. Wyne for the murder of one of their members last year while he was Punjab chief minister.

24 killed in Sri Lanka offensive

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankan warplanes bombed a convoy of rebels and several villages in rebel-held northern Sri Lanka during a major offensive, the military and travellers from the area said Wednesday. At least 24 civilians were killed. The travellers said 20 people were killed Tuesday when an underground bunker collapsed, burying people who had taken shelter from the air strikes. Seven people escaped unhurt from the bunker in Sangaththanai village in Jaffna district, said the residents who fled to the government-controlled city of Vavuniya Wednesday. In another attack Tuesday, planes bombed a Hindu temple in Nandavil village in Jaffna.

Marchais to step down

PARIS (R) — France's veteran Communist leader George Marchais, one of Europe's laste hardliners, announced Wednesday he was stepping down after two decades as head of the French Communist Party PCP). Mr. Marchais, 73 and recovering froma hip operation, said in a letter to the party's Central Committee that he wanted to retire from the leadership after the 28th party congress next January. "I have exercised this responsibility for 20 years, and you know how old I am," he said. "Of course I will remain, as always, a militant." Mr. Marchais, who for years resisted reform within his once-powerful but now-dwindling party leaves just as it is preparing to ditch a major Leninist principle of organisation. The PCP Central Committee is meeting this week ahead of the January congress is proposing to drop the concept of "democratic centralism," which imposes tight discipline and rules out any pluralism in party ranks.

U.S. retains abortion restrictions

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate voted Tuesday to retain strict restrictions on government funding of abortions for poor women. The Senate voted 59-40 to permit government funding of abortions for poor women only in cases of rape, incest or if the woman's life is in danger. "Taxpayers should not pay $100 million a year to pay for 400,000 abortions a year, to subsidise abortion on demand," declared Senator Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican. The battle over abortion will be renewed when Mr. Clinton's health care plan comes before Congress, but backers of liberalising the rules predieted the outcome will be different. "It will be a different dynamic. Because then you're talking about all women, not just poor women," said Senator Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat, author of the unsuccessful move to change the law.

DRUG TRAFFICKERS KILLED: A policeman looks at the bodies of two of eight drug traffickers killed during a gunbattle Tuesday in the shantytown of Coroados in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some 170 policemen assaulted the shantytown with grenades and automatic weapons to gain control after five hours of fighting (AFP photo)

Angolan forces recapture 2 towns

LUANDA (Agencies) — Angolan government troops have recaptured two towns in the southern Huila province from UNITA rebels, the pro-government Jornal De Angola reported Wednesday.

Military officials told the newspaper that government soldiers killed 50 UNITA troops in the seizure of Chicomba and 30 others when they took Dongo, but gave no details of casualties on the government side.

Three UNITA prisoners were taken.

The two towns were captured in August by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which has plunged the country back into civil war after refusing to recognise that it had lost U.N.-supervised general elections a year ago.

The Luanda government is ready to resume peace talks with UNITA rebels "as soon as the international community gives the signal," the Angolan minister for public administration, Antonio Pitra Neto said in Lisbon, Portugal, Wednesday.

But he emphasised that any resumption of the talks depended on UNITA accepting the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Angola, the Bicesse Peace Pact signed in Portugal in May 1991 and the outcome of last September's U.N.-supervised elections.

The country plunged back into war after UNITA refused to accept the outcome of the elections which it lost.

"The government is ready to resume negotiations with UNITA as soon as the international community gives the signal, but they cannot start until we know where they will lead us," the minister said, who delivered a message from Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos Tuesday to Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva.

He considered the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on UNITA "positive" because "they will help democratise UNITA without penalising it politically."

"The sanctions will prevent UNITA from continuing down the military road which is incompatible with developing democracy."

Meanwhile Sao Tome and Principe's President Miguel Trovoado sought to revive Angolan peace talks Wednesday, but privately officials were pessimistic about his chances of arranging an early ceasefire.

Mr. Trovoada has been in Luanda since Monday trying ot persuade Angolan government leaders to resume talks with UNITA.

Government and UNITA military commanders were due to discuss a ceasefire in this island state off the coast of Gabon at the weekend, but Luanda failed to send a delegation.

Sao Tome officials criticised the U.N. Security Council for not giving the sides more time to resume talks before imposing an arms and oil embargo on UNITA at the weekend.

They said the Security Council's imposition of the largely symbolic sanctions after granting a 10-day grace period for peace talks to resume had hardened positions on both sides.

U.K. Labour leader: Reform vital for power

BRIGHTON, England (R) — British Labour leader John Smith told his party Wednesday it had to reform its links with the trade unions if it ever wants to win power again.

"The changes I propose today are vital, absolutely central, to our strategy for winning power," he told the party's annual conference in the most important speech of his 15-month-old leadership of Britain's main opposition party.

The tough Scottish barrister is staking his authority on finding an election-winning formula for a party out of power for 14 years.

Mr. Smith, eager to give his party a more modernist image, wants to end the trade union block vote for selecting parliamentary candidates and replace it with a one member, one vote system.

With a complex series of votes likely to be balanced on a knife edge, Mr. Smith made a spirited last-minute plea for wavering trade unionists to support him.

Offering them an olive branch, he said: "These proposals do not in any way break or diminish the links between the Labour Party and the trade unions."

Mr. Smith told a packed conference hall: "The principle is clear, simple and democratic — all Labour Party members should have equal rights to choose the party's representatives."

With the ruling Conservatives buffeted by party mutinies, policy U-turns and a two-year recession, Mr. Smith is eager to put his own party's internal bickering behind him and go on the offensive against the government.

Mr. Smith fears that union domination of his party gives the wrong signals to the crucial middle class voters that have deserted Labour in the last four elections.

His first step is to reform the selection of Labour parliamentary candidates.

Unions will however still wield enormous power at policy-making conferences and in the ruling National Executive Committee. They control 70 per cent of the votes at party conferences.

Critics say Mr. Smith has not been forceful enough in spelling out a distinctive Labour image and has instead concentrated oo lambasting what he calls the "sleazy, shabby and secretive" Conservatives.

In an emotion-charged meeting of the party, Engineering Union leader Bill Jordan, a Smith loyalist, told the delegates "colleagues, the electorate are watching. Your vote today will answer a question they are entitled to ask — who really leads the Labour Party?"

He echoed the words of another union leader, Gavin Laird, who said Labour "cannot possibly go up to the next election on the basis of the block vote in its present form."

Powerful Transport Workers Union boss Bill Morris accused Mr. Smith of dividing the party unnecessarily.

"It has been extremely damaging because our people have been asked to make an awful choice between their union and their party. The two in my mind are inseparable."

Japan concerned over N. Korean stance

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata expressed concern over North Korea's stance on nuclear issues in talks with his Chinese and U.S. counterparts here.

North Korea has refused to allow international inspection of nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has threatened to quit the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

When Mr. Hata met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Tuesday, the two men "reaffirmed their determination to exert their utmost effort so that the issue would not be brought to the Security Council," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Mr. Hata suggested that Japan, the United States and South Korea work closely together on this, the official said.

Earlier in the day in talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Mr. Hata and Mr. Qichen affirmed that China and Japan both want a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly Monday, Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa strongly urged North Korea "to dispel international concern about its development of nuclear weapons by, for example, fully implementing the safeguards agreement" with the IAEA.

Meanwhile a Japanese defence spokesman said Wednesday North Korea has stepped up its air force flights and other military activities.

"In our surveillance of the area, we've seen both an increase in the number of practice flights in North Korea and a move to modernise military equipment," the spokesman said.

The reason for the rise in military activity in North Korea was unclear, he said.

"We don't think tensions in the region have eased, but neither are there reasons to make us believe they have risen," he said.

The daily Mainichi Shimbun reported Monday that unnamed military experts at the ministry met U.S. army and Defence Intelligence Agency officials in Washington.

The newspaper said Japanese and U.S. officials had agreed that North Korea was modernising and strengthening its military equipment at a pace comparable to the period before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Japanese daily also said North Korea had stepped up its military deployment along the border with the South.

Japan's armed forces Wednesday launched their biggest manoeuvres since the end of World War II, sparking a furious attack by North Korea which accused it of fuelling a massive arms buildup and plotting to build a nuclear bomb.

The manoeuvres, involving all three branches of the Japanese military, will deploy 90,000 men, 120 warships and 760 planes, as well as U.S. units, in the strategically sensitive north of Japan, officials said.

The Japan Defence Agency stressed that the timing had no connection with any tension across the Sea of Japan, in Russia and North Korea.

But Pyongyang chose the moment to lash Japan, accusing it of a military buildup that justified the North Korean missile programme.

"Japan keeps stationing in her territory huge armed forces targetted against the DPRK," the official daily Rodong Sinmun said, referring North Korea by its official name.

"It is only too natural for the DPRK to increase its self-reliant defence capabilities, including self-defensive missile exercises, under such conditions," it said.

Japan has one of the world's most impressively equipped conventional forces, which have benefitted from a lavish budget that, since 1988, has ranked between fourth and seventh on the world list.

Western military experts said Japanese military had a big weak spot — coordination between its air, naval and terrestial forces — that the exercises hope to address.

Nessie might have a Polynesian cousin

RAROTONGA (AFP) — A pastor and his son living on a remote pacific island claim they have seen a "dinosaur-like sea creature" near their atoll, the Cook Islands News Daily reported. They said they saw it off the twin atolls of Rakahanga and Manihiki in the northern Cook's group. Identified only as Reverend Solomona, the pastor said he and his son were fishing when they saw birds circling an area, believing it to be a shoal of fish they sailed over to the spot where they saw an ugly-looking creature popped its head out of the water. They described it as looking like a huge lizard, larger than a whale. Terrified, the two sailed back home. The creature has not been sighted again. Rakahanga is among the world's remotest islands, 1,675 kilometres (1038 miles) north of here.

Madonna sticks to her guns

BONN (AFP) — Madonna said she had no intention of changing her scheduled show in Frankfurt Saturday despite demands from a conservative parliamentarian that the show be banned on grounds of obscenity. Norbert Geis, an official of the Christian Socialist Party (CSU), the Bavarian sister party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, Monday called for the show to be stopped or at least banned for minors because of the American singer's "sexual orgies" on stage. But Hansi Hoffmann, one of the concert organisers, said "the singer has not even once appeared totally naked on stage, she always wears a bra and pants." The show in Frankfurt will be Madonna's only appearance in Germany on her world tour which began Saturday in London.

Older men have better 'marriage odds'

OTTAWA (R) — The older Canadian men get, the better are the odds they can find a mate, a government agency said Tuesday. It all starts at birth, when 105 boys are born for every 100 girls, government agency Statistics Canada said in a report called "the marriage market." Forty years later the two sexes are equal in numbers. After that, numbers of males start dropping off. By age 90, there are 4 times more women than men. With rising divorce rates, this says something about the potential for men, and they do remarry more frequently," said government population analyst Robert Riordan.

Sielberg buys dinosaur eggs

LONDON (R) — American Steven Spielberg, director of the smash hit dinosaur film Jurassic Park, was the mystery buyer of 10 dinosaor eggs at a London auction earlier this month, the Sun newspaper reported Wednesday. The Sun, Britain's best-selling daily newspaper, said Spielberg had put the eggs on display in his Los Angeles mansion. After the auction on Sept. 15, the auctioneers Bonham said an anonymous telephone bidder in the United States paid £46,000 ($71,000) for what they called an extremely rare nest of 10 Sauropod eggs. It was excavated about three years ago at Xixia in the Henan province of China. The eggs were laid between 70 and 100 million years ago in the late Jurassic to early Cretaceous period by a Sauropod, a large herbivore similar to the Brontosaurus.

3 highway robbers jailed in France

STRASBOURG, France (R) — Three highway robbers have been jailed in France for a string of attcks on foreign tourists at motorway rest areas. Freddy Huber, 30, and Emmanuel Meller, 25, were jailed Monday for 30 months each. Leon Haas, a 23-year-old accomplice, was given a five-month term with another 13 months suspnded. The court in Strasbourgin eastern France heard that M. Huber and Mr. Meller carried out 16 violent robberies onsome 40 tourists at motorway rest areas last year and Mr. Haas joined some of the attacks. The men were caugh in August 1992 after dozen of paramilitary Gendarmes joined the hunt. Earlier this month, police arrested three suspects in connection with string of attacks, mainly on German and British tourists, on highways near Lyon in central France.

JBF basketball tournament

Lebanon's Al Hikmeh defeat Jordan 85-74

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lebanon's Al Hikmeh Wednesday defeated Jordan's national team 85-74 in the opening match of the International Basketball Tournament organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

The win provided an important moral boost to Al Hikmeh, who last played in Jordan in the Al Ahli tournament last July, and lost the chance to clinch the title when they withdrew from a match citing referee bias.

As for the Jordanian team, the match was a great chance for coach Alexander Sasha to reassess bis plans and line-up of players.

Scoring remained close throughout the first half, although Al Hikmeh had tbe lead.

Naser Bushnaq and Hilal Barakat scored for the Kingdom's team, while Elie Nasr scored 10 points as Al Hikmeh led 15-12.

The Lebanese team found the chance to take a wider lead at 24-16 as Jordan lacked accurate finishing and offensive rebounding.

Elie Mshantaf scored for Al Hikmeh who led 34-24 with Muntaser Abdultayyeh scoring for Jordan.

The Jordanian team narrowed the gap to 36-32 after a three-pointer by Samir Murqus.

Walid Dmiati and Nasr scored to end the first half 47-35 for Al Hikmeh.

The visiting team widened their lead to 51-39 before Jordan's Murad Barakat sank in some free shots and a three-pointer to lessen the gap to 55-48.

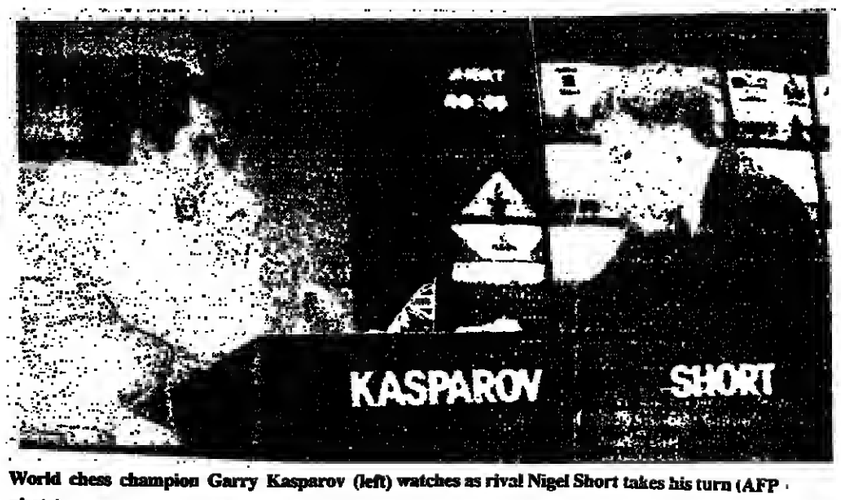
However Al Hikmeh, playing a fast attacking game that enabled them to easily penetrate Jordan's zone defence seemed determined to clincb the win. They led 78-66 and 80-70 as Jordan's Abdultayyeb and Marwan Al Saeedi tried their best at offensive rebounding while Murqus scored.

Al Hikmeh's Mshantaf scored the last of his team's scores ending the match 85-74.

Four other teams are participating in the tournament which comes amid Jordan's preparations for the 17th Asian Basketball Championship due to be held in Jakarta Nov. 12-20.

Bulgaria's Himik were to play Iraq's Al Talaba in Wednesday's late match.

Iraq's Al Naft play Himik Thursday while Al Talaba play Moscow's Seska.



World chess champion Garry Kasparov (left) watches as rival Nigel Short takes his turn (AFP photo)

Time-pressed Short misses chance for first win

LONDON (R) — Briton Nigel Short lost his nerve on the brink of a breakthrough victory in the world title chess challenge Tuesday, allowing holder Garry Kasparov to stage a miraculous escape and draw the 10th game.

Experts believe Short, who threw cantion to the wind by sacrificing his queen early on, missed several golden chances and may never get such another strong opportunity at victory.

Kasparov now leads the 24-game series 7-½ to 2-½ and needs only a tie to retain his title.

Sbort, 28, playing white against the Sicilian Defence, gained the upper hand thanks to his sacrifice of the most powerful piece on the board on the 16th move in what grandmasters judged to be "inspired desperation."

This sacrifice allowed him to steadily improve his position until bis advantage was potentially match-winning.

Experts unanimously assessed Kasparov's position as lost and claimed to have found at least two moments where Short could have forced his first win of the match.

But Kasparov, 30, defended an apparently hopeless position with great invention, creating confusing complications.

This inspired defence and Short's nerves as time grew short kept victory just out of the Briton's grasp.

Sbort managed to reach the time control on move 40 with four seconds to spare. But by then the damage had been done and Kasparov had erected a defensive set-up that allowed him to force a draw by repetition of position.

Grandmaster following the drama at London's Savoy Tbeatre were amazed by Short's failure to capitalise on his excellent sacrifice, and could not imagine him getting a better chance to beat Kasparov.

"This wa ridiculous. If you can't win positions like this then you have no business playing in a World Champion match," British grandmaster James Plaskett said.

Kasparov, an Armenian Jew born in Azerbaijan and playing for Russia, needs only five points from the next 14 to capture the 5/8 winner's share of the 1.7 million pound ($2.56 million) purse by the times of Londong newspaper.

The official World Title match, sanctioned by World Chess Body FIDE in the Netherlands, has been suspended for a week in search of a sponsor after the unexpected withdrawal of second-half hosts Oman.

Former world cbampion Anatoly Karpov of Russia leads Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman 7-5 at the halfway mark, in a match that was already marred by the inability of Dutch organisers to raise any money towards the prize fund.

FIDE disqualified Kasparov, the champion, and Short, who eliminated both Karpov and Timman to becomel the challenger, after a dispute over match conditions. Kasparov and Sbort founded the professional chess association which agreed to stage the breakaway match in London.

Graf tops rankings

Steffi Graf

ST PETERSUBURG, Florida (R) — Top 15 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
3. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)
4. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
5. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)
8. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
9. Jennifer Capriati (U.S.)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
12. Kimiko Date (Japan)
13. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
14. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
15. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)

Marseille's Tapie deeper in trouble

VALENCIENNES, France (AFP) — Olympique Marseille club owner Bernard Tapie plunged deeper into trouble Wednesday when his alibi in an alleged cover up of a match-fixing scandal was blown, legal sources said.

Jacques Mellick, Mayor and member of parliament for Bethune, had originally provided Tapie with an alibi after sacked Valelncienne coach Boro Primorac claimed Tapie tried to bribe him into carrying tbe can for the bribery charges.

Mellick now appears to be saying be left Tapie's office just before Primorac claims he met Tapie.

Marseille have been stripped of their league title, banned from defending the Enropean Champions' Cup and barred from playing in the World Club Cup and European Super Cup because of the match-rigging allegations.

Tapie, who claimed Tuesday he would carry on in spite of Marseille's huge debts, could now be charged with interfering with a witness.

That would disqualify him from holding office in a clnb.

Marseille's 1-0 victory over Valenciennes in May clinched their fifth French League title and came a week before they played AC Milan in the European Cup final.

Lille Club President Marc Devaux said he asked for police reinforcements for Saturday's league match against Marseille.

He feared trouble between visiting Marseille fans and Valenciennes supporters.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

KILL THE OPTIMISTS

South's passive four-spade rebid could only mean doubt about the quality of the trump suit. Since North had the king of spades as well as a side-suit ace, six spades was a standout.

West led the jack of diamonds, taken in the closed hand. It looked as if the only loser was the ace of trumps, so without a moment's thought declarer led a low spade to the king. As a result, West could not be stopped from scoring two trump tricks—down one.

A pessimist would have given the hand more thought. The only distribution that would put the slam in jeopardy was a 4-0 trump break and that can be overcome no matter which defender held the trump length.

To the second trick, declarer should have led the queen of trumps. As the cards lie, East shows out on the first trump, so whether West has won the ace or not, the nine of spades is led next for a marked finesse against West's ten. Similarly, if East turns up with all the trumps, declarer can get to dummy with the ace of hearts to lead a low trump and finesse the eight, again neutralizing the ten.

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 4 2
♡ A 10 5
♢ 9 6 3 2
♣ J 6 4

WEST
♠ A 10 6 5
♡ K 9 2
♢ J 10 8 5
♣ 7 3

EAST
♠ Void
♡ Q J 8 7 6 3
♢ 7 4
♣ 10 9 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 9 8 7 3
♡ 4
♢ A K Q
♣ A K Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♢

There's an old joke that defines a pessimist as someone who's spent some time with an optimist. Be that as it may, if we were to choose between them as partners at the bridge table, the odds would be off the board—pessimists would be a shoo-in.

The auction looks clumsy, but is logical. After an old-fashioned demand bid, North's raise to three spades is a positive response and

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq prepares for World Cup qualifiers

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq are preparing for their crucial Asian Zone World Cup qualifiers next montb with a series of friendlies against top Romanian club Progressul. The first division side flew in via Amman at the weekend and were due to play the first friendly sinee the game's ruling body gave the green light in Jnne. FIFA's decision, in the wake of the international bans which followed Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, authorises Iraq to play only in Baghdad. The Asian second round qualifiers are being held from October 15-28 in Qatar, with two countries going to next year's finals in the United States from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, South Korea, North Korea and Japan.

Australia launches medals strategy for 2000

SYDNEY (R) — Australia will send a record number of athletes to the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996 in a bid to maximise its medal haul in Sydney four years later, an official said Wednesday. The move was aimed at giving younger competitors vital experience before the 2000 games, said Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) Executive Director Perry Crosswhite. "A lot more younger people (would be sent) to blood them in Atlanta with a view to four years later," he told reporters. "Younger athletes who may be on the borderline for selection would be given the benefit of the doubt. "Previously, we have only taken those athletes we believe are capable of making the finals," he added. Australia's team for the 1996 Olymics is likely to number about 400 athletes and 200 officials.

Angola retains African basketball title

NAIROBI (AFP) — Angolans danced through the match as their side tore the Egyptian defence to shreds to win the Africa Basketball Championship for the third year running Tuesday. Angola had something to prove after being upset by the Egyptians in the preliminary rounds. Bolstered by five professionals, Angola displayed the skills that made them Africa's representatives to last year's Barcelona Olympics. They dominated the first eight minutes and opened a huge 11-1 lead with the first basket from Anibal Moreira. Jean Jacques followed with two points while Moreira and Antonio Carvalho scored three pointers a piece to send the crowd and the Moi International Sports Gymansium wild. Egypt, making a bold showing in this 17th edition, fonght back when Ashraf Kody scored a field goal and teammate Mohammad Motayeb homed in a free throw. In comparision, the match between Senegal and Kenya lacked enthusiasm, the West Africans easily crushing the hosts 90-53.

Aborigines call for Sydney Olympic boycott

SYDNEY (R) — Australian aborigines plan to lobby African nations to boycott Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games if the government goes ahead with proposed laws on Aboriginal land title, an Aboriginal spokesman said Wednesday. Aboriginal leaders from across the country would press for the boycott and begin an international campaign to disrupt the Olympics unless the Australian government changed its position on native land rights, spokesman Michael Mansell said. "That's still our position," Mansell, who represents the Eva Valley Working Group of Australian Black Leaders, said in an interview from Hobart, Tasmania. Prime Minister Paul Keating plans to introduce the Land Rights Legislation into parliament October 18, citing a high court ruling giving Aborigines compensation for native land to which they can prove a traditional relationship. Aboriginal groups have rejected the ruling, saying it does not give them power to veto mining on Aboriginal land. Mansell earlier suggested that Aboriginals compete as a separate team in the Sydney Olympics.

PSV anger fans; Deportivo, Juventus win

PARIS (AFP) — PSV Eindhoven's new boos Aad De Mos was left guarding his back Tnesday as the Dutch giants crashed out of the UEFA Cup at the first hurdle.

PSV were among the big guns expected to coast into the next stage of Europe's showpiece tournaments.

But while the likes of Italian premier clubs Juventus and Parma, and their German counterparts Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Dortmund — just — ended the night on a high, the Dntch side fired blanks in front of their frustrated supporters.

All they needed was one goal after an opening leg 2-1 defeat against Germans Karlsruhe, but De Mos's attack failed to find the net in a 0-0 stalemate that was roundly booed by their supporters.

The defeat comes on top of disappointing league form which has left PSV, whose supporters demand both domestie and European success, struggling in sixth place.

Swede Thomas Brolin ended Tnesday equally unpopnlar among some people.

But he was still celebrating after scoring Cup Winners' Cup holders Parma's second in the win over his compatriots Degerfors and ensuring a 4-1 aggregate victory.

The no-nonsense win was a relief after the Italians had needed two goals in two minutes from their Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla in the first leg after going 1-0 down.

Juventus, the UEFA Cup holders, had little to fear after an opening 3-0 win at home in the defence of their title.

But they impressed again in Russia by beating Lokomotiv Moscow 1-0 in the return. Giancarrio Marocchi for once upstaging his midfield partner Roberto Baggio by scoring the only goal.

Individual performance of the day came from Deportivo La Coruna's Brazilian star Beheto, wbo hit a hat-trick against Danish side Aalborg in the Spaniards' 5-0 UEFA Stroll, while Dane Jesper Kristensen did the most for his foreign employment prospects.

Defence retracts statements given to prosecution in plot trial

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The State Security Court Wednesday heard the testimonies given to the prosecution by eight men accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein and the defence retracting the statements.

The court overruled objections by the defence against introducing the testimonies as evidence in the trial. The defence had argued that these testimonies or "confessions" were extracted under duress and torture during their detention at the General Intelligence Department (GID).

After Prosecutor Major Mohannad Hijazi read out the eight statements the defendants had made to him, defence lawyers insisted that their clients continued to deny "any truth to these testimonies." They have all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Defence lawyer Saleh Armouti also made an appeal in court to two defendants who are being tried in absentia to turn themselves in and vowed to defend them "free of charge."

In addition to charges of plotting to kill the King and replace the regime with an Islamic caliphate state, the defendants were also charged with attempting to change the Constitution through "illegal and violent means" and belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP).

The defendants sat attentively listening to Maj. Hijazi as he quickly read through the eight testimonies, which often sounded repetitive.

The main points the prosecution tried to establish through these testimonies was that the four alleged ILP members, two of whom are tried in absentia, had recruited a former Muta University student and member of the Royal Escort Unit to recruit other students from the university to plan the assassination of King Hussein.

These are some of the main points made in the testimonies:

— The former student was convinced by the ILP members that the King was a "kaffer (non-believer) like all other Arab regimes because he does not rule by the rule of God" and had to be killed in order to be removed. The defendant would arrange for shooting the Monarch at a graduation ceremony on June 26;

— The former student had sought to work in the Royal Escort Unit to make the "joh" easier;

— The former student was able to succeed in convincing another cadet at Muta University, a military academy south of Amman, of the same principles of the ILP, and asked him to recruit others in the plan;

— One cadet recruited another four who were assigned different jobs: Two would shoot the King in the head "because he might be wearing a bullet-proof vest" and the others would try to protect each other from being killed;

— The cadets knew they were working for an Islamic group, but did not know it was the ILP;

— They expected to be shot by the King's guards, but were convinced that this was their "fastest way" to heaven;

— Once the King was dead, the cadets were told, there were others ready to occupy the main institutions, such as the radio and television station and royal palaces;

— Once the regime in Jordan was changed, all other Arab countries would follow suit;

— some of the defendants had asked for King Hussein's forgiveness for plotting to kill him.

None of the defendants were asked by the court to confirm or deny the testimonies read by Maj. Hijazi, but the defence is expected to put them on the stand next week.

Omar Dumra, the lawyer defending the member of the Royal Escort Unit, described the testimony as "invalid" and "the words of" a GID officer who allegedly tortured his client during interrogation.

A doctor checked four of the defendants last Sunday for signs of torture. The defence also requested that a psychiatrist check all the suspects as soon as possible.

In a long speech that had to be cut off by Presiding Judge Colonel Hafez Amin more than once, Mr. Dumra pleaded to the court to dismiss the testimony.

"Keep your summation to the end of your defence," Col. Amin told Mr. Dumra. "I have already ruled to accept the testimonies, and I cannot decide to dismiss them before hearing the rest of the evidence. The defence has not yet shown its case, and I will decide whether to dismiss them when I weigh all the evidence."

Meanwhile, women relatives of the defendants were prohibited for the second week from entering the courtroom. They staged a sit-in at the gates of the courthouse and carried placarads demanding justice for their sons and brothers.

The court was adjourned until Saturday, where the prosecutor will conclude his evidence with another witness, a badia border guard who attended the house search of one of the defendants.

Al Ahali editor charged with slander

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — State Security Court prosecutor Major Mohannad Hijazi Wednesday charged the chief editor of Al Ahali weekly newspaper for "slandering" the court before referring his case and the case of a detained Al Ahali reporter to the civil court.

Editor Jamil Nimri was summoned to the State Security Court to be questioned by Maj. Hijazi on the case of Al Ahali reporter Ramadao Rawashdeh, who has been charged with slandering the court during his coverage of a trial of an assassination plot against His Majesty King Hussein **(see separate story)**.

Mr. Nimri, who was not detained, and Maj. Hijazi told the Jordan Times that before the editor was questioned in the presence of two lawyers, he was charged with the same four eonnts as his colleague: "Slandering the State Security Conrt, publishing news, information and criticism of the trial which affects the judges, witnesses and public opinion, and publishing the transcripts of the trial which the court had ordered journalists against doing."

Lawyers said that the prosecutor ordered referring the case of Mr. Rawashdeh, and later Mr. Nimri's, to the civil court because the State Security Court was not tbe authorised body to look into such a case.

Mr. Rawasdheh was arrested in front of the military court in Marka on Sunday and has since been beld at Juweideh prison in an unprecedented measure by State Security Coort officials against journalists since the democratisation process was launched in Jordan in November 1989.

Mr. Nimri said he had told tbe prosecutor he was responsible for everything published in Al Ahali, which belongs to the Jordan People's Democracy Party (Hashd), eveo though he might not necessarily read every article before it is sent to the printers.

"I told the prosecutor that I was morally and legally responsible for all that is printed in Al Ahali," Mr. Nimri said. "But I also told him tbere was absolutely no intention of interfering or harming the judicial process of the ongoiog trial, or the court."

Maj. Hijazi said that the transfer of the Al Ahali case to an Amman civil court will need eodorsement from the military attorney-general first.

Mr. Rawashdeh is expected to be released on bail today, lawyers said. It was not clear whether bail will be granted by the military prosecution or the civil court.

The State Security Court was angered by an article written by Mr. Rawashdeh on Sept. 20, subbeadlined "court delays referring defendants to doctors," saying it indicated doubts about the integrity of the court.

Court officials banned the journalist from entering the court. Mr. Rawashdeh was arrested on Sunday when he protested against the court's ban by carryiog a placard in front of the court.

Military judiciary sources had told the Jordan Times that tbey felt Mr. Rawashdeh's coverage was biased against tbe court and its proceedings and could seriously affect public opinion, "especially that the verdict of this court can be appealed in the court of appeals."

The sources said the opposition's job was to 'oppose and criticise the executive branch, not the judiciary" and warned they will not tolerate any persons or newspapers questioning the integrity of the courts.

On Tuesday, Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar said he could not interfere with Mr. Rawashdeh's case because it would be "interfering witb the judiciary."

Al Ahali editors said that they had never violated the court order not to publish the transcripts of the trials, as some daily Arabic newspapers had done, noting that no actioo was taken against them.

"I believe Al Ahali aod political party newspapers are targetted by the authorities," a political party oewspaper reporter told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. "And the arrest of Mr. Rawashdeh is a message that they are ready to take action against these newspapers if they publish substance that does not agree with their views.

'Aid to Palestine must be swift, efficient'

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Delivery of aid to rebuild Palestine must be swift for Palestinians to feel the peace benefits and efficient for the effective use of pledged billions of dollars, officials say.

Palestinian and Israeli leaders and officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank insisted during a seminar bere that international assistance would not be enough.

The establishment of an institutional framework in the occupied territories and tbe definition of appropriate economie policies by the two sides will count even more, they said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) principal economic adviser Yousef Sayegh, while expressing enthusiasm about the eagerness of donor countries, said he was nevertheless concerned about the need for speedy action following the sudden Israeli-PLO peace accord.

"(It is) not easy to use this money efficiently, in a way that makes people in tbe occupied territories feel the difference," he said.

To work with donor countries, the Palestinians have created a new organisation named the Palestine Emergency Reconstruction and Development Organisation, Dr. Sayigh said.

Donor countries and Palestinian officials met for the first time Monday io Washington on the sidelines of the annual IMF/World Bank assembly.

A conference on reconstruction aid for Palestine will be held Friday in the U.S. capital.

Ram Kumar Chopra, director of the bank's Middle East and North Africa Department, defined seven priorities for economie action in the occupied territories: Infrastructure (transportation and housing), social services, fiscal reforms, and establishment of an administration and systems of justice, banking, finance and managemeot of natural resources.

France wants the EC to pledge one billion European currency units ($1.17 billion) for the Middle East's economic development at a donors' conference in Washington Ftiday, French officials said.

But in a move which could cause new Franco-American tension, French officials said the EC, not the United States, shoold direct international efforts to fund the Israel-PLO peace agreement.

Underlining French pique, they said Freocb Foreign Minister Alain Juppe might not attend the donors' conference although he will be in the United States.

"It would be more appropriate if Europe, the major aid contributor to the Middle East, had prime responsibility in defining the means which the international community will assign to the region's economic development," foreign ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna told reporters.

EC officials said a squabble between the community and the United States over who should manage the international aid programme for Palestinians is straining EC unity.

EC Cooperation and Development Commissioner Manuel Marin said the EC's Executive European commission was best suited to coordinate the programme.

He was speaking at a press conference to announce the commission's formal proposal to finance 500 million ECU ($580 million) in development aid for the West Bank and Gaza over the next five years.

Mr. Marin also announced the commission's plans for a new association agreement with Israel which deepens economic links and political dialogue as a mark of gratitude for Tel Aviv's role in the peace process.

"The EC must use the Middle East as an instrument of internal unity," Mr. Marin said, deploring the disagreement over whether the European Commission or the World Bank should coordinate the Palestinian aid programme.

The Uoited States bas been pushing for the work to be done by tbe World Bank undei the control of the United States and Russia, the countries chairing the Middle East peace conference.

EC Officials said Britain was breaking ranks with the EC by backing the United States, officially because it considered the World Bank more efficient.

They also suggested that Britain was motivated by opposition to the idea that the EC should increase its international profile as part of an attempt to develop a common foreign and security policy.

Mr. Marin said it wonld be "fruistrating" if the community could not manage a show of unity on the Middle East following its disarray over monetary policy over the past year and the confliet in ex-Yogoslavia.

The EC's claim to act as coordinator rests on its chairmanship of a committee for economie relations set up at the Madrid conference on the Middle East in November 1991.

Kuwait dismissed reports it is facing pressure to provide funds to the Palestinian anthority proposed under the PLO-Israel accord and said it will consider contributing with other Gulf Arab states.

"There is no foreign pressure...the international move to provide financial support to the self-rule area is oot directed towards the Gulf and the Arab countries alone...it is an internatiooal initiative," Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said io an interview.

The interview was published Wednesday in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan, the United Arab Emirates' Al Khaleej and the Egyptian daily Al Ahram.

"Kuwait, which has always supported and stood by tbe Palestinian people, will study the possibility of contributing as part of what the Gulf Cooperation Council decides," he said.

Jordan for democracy

(Continued from page 1)

[illegible] this brave de[illegible] know that democ[illegible] much our nation[illegible] from the historic [illegible] members of our [illegible] said Al Liwa, a [illegible] weekly close to the [illegible] Muslim Brother[illegible]

[illegible] of Palestinian [illegible] less opposed [illegible] the poll on time, [illegible] and analysts said.

[illegible] their numbers and [illegible] integration, Jordan's Palestinians are greatly under-represented in parliament, government and the army and [illegible] in business.

The percentage of Palestinians in Jordan is disputed with government figures as low as 30 per cent but authoritative Western sources say they form the majority of the Kingdom's four million population.

The right of return for Palestinian refugees still has to [illegible] under the PLO-[illegible] agreement. Senior [illegible] officials have said Jordan's Palestinian citizens [illegible] to have dual [illegible] Jordanian [illegible] choose to [illegible] homes in the West Bank.

Prince Hassan recently told [illegible] dual nationality was a proposal which could be discussed in future.

Politicians absorb course

(Continued from page 1)

"Now we are preparing ourselves to compile and election list," the spokesman added.

Another party that had supported a postponement, the independent Arab Democratic Islamic Movement, Dua'a, was the only party that it was not surprised by Tuesday's decision." We expected this decision and our election list is ready for publication," said Marwan Soudah, the party's press spokesman.

Opponents of postponement had already given up hope after several signals that a delay was possible. The Jordanian Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party's secretary general, Ahmad Najdawi, applauded the government's decision but admitted being caught off-guard. "We had believed that elections would be delayed and had put off-electioneering," he told the Jordan Times. "Now we must start organising for an election campaign since we know that there will be elections," said Mr. Najdawi.

The leftist Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan, welcomed Tuesday's announcement. "We said before that holding the elections on time will strengthen Jordan at home and abroad and we welcome the government's decision whole-heartedly," said Ali Amer, the party's secretary general.

While most centrist parties supported a delay of the election, one noticeable exception was the Yakatha Party. Yakatha's secretary-general, former (Irbid) Lower House Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh has been campaigning in bis home district for reelection for the last month.

"We were for holding the elections on time and that's why we never stopped campaigning," Mr. Rawabdeh said Wednesday.

"Only in the last three days were we in doubt over the timing of the elections, because of the many statements hinting at a delay." Several members of Yakatha are running as independents since the party will not field a party ticket in this election, said Mr. Rawabdeh.

But it was the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the most prominent political party in Jordan, that voiced the greatest praise for Tuesday's decision.

"We are calling for this step to be taken. It strengthens Jordan's democratie process and fabric," said the party's secretary general, Ishak Farhan.

Dr. Farhan, a member of the Upper House, said the move gave more credibility to Jordan's "sincerity" and "commitment" to the democratic process — "locally, regionally and internationally."

"The issues cited delaying the elections were unqualified, the elections will strengthen national unity contrary to the beliefs of many," he said.

Bosnian assembly vote makes solution unlikely

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's Muslim-led parliament accepted the latest Bosnian peace plan Wednesday but imposed conditions that cast doubt on prospects for a settlement.

The parliamentarians voted to accept the peace deal for Bosnia with the proviso that "territory seized by force" be returned.

Fifty-eight of the 69 deputies approved the conditional acceptance of the proposals hammered out last week to divide Bosnia into three ethnic mini-states, Parliamentary President Miro Lazovic said.

The outcome is seen as a virtual rejection of the peace plan, because Serbs and Croats who hold 90 per cent of Bosnia after 17 months of civil war have said they are not prepared to make any further territorial concessions.

Bosnian Muslims had their demands for access to the sea accepted at last week's meeting of the warring factions, but Serbs flatly rejected Muslim calls for four per cent more land in eastern Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has said the Serbs had already made seven territorial concessions to tbe Muslims and tbat "enough is enough." He has threatened to revoke all concessions if the peace plan is not signed.

But Bosnian Vice President Ejup Gaoic told reportes after the session that negotiations [illegible] and where there had been genocide."

The Muslim-led government is bitter about an international arms embargo on Bosnia which drastically weakened its defences against foes sponsored by neighbouring Croatia and Serbia.

It has campaigned for Western intervention in the war to help it win back territory and is reluctant to accept a peace settlement that would hand the spoils of war to the Bosnian Croats and Serbs.

"The parliament acted in such a way as to create conditions so that eventually the international troops will come here," said Mr. Ganic.

"It would be better if we reverse the resolts of ethnic cleansing by negotiations and if troops come here to preserve the peace, that is something very realistic that parliament outlined," he added.

As the parliament voted Wednesday, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies in Brussels considered plans to deploy some 50,000 peacekeeping troops io Bosnia to enforce any agreement.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said the alliance must first be given the job by the United Nations and be sure that all parties were committed to making an agreement work before any guarantee could be given.

The force plaoned by the alliance would need a clear mandate and rules of engagement and any NATO operation should be limited in time, he said, speaking before the Sarajevo parliamentary vote.

[illegible] "you can't expect NATO to give a guarantee at this very moment," Mr. Woerner said, adding that he had no doubt the alliance would take on the job if it was satisfied on all of those points.

U.S. seeks way to end Somalia role

NEW YORK (AP) — The Clinton administration, casting about for a new and effective strategy on Somalia, still is trying to have warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed arrested but is increasingly determined to withdraw the 4,700 U.S. troops from the country quickly.

"We've wanted to get out of there," a senior U.S. official said here Tuesday, while President Bill Clinton declared in Washington there must be a "date certain" for bringing the troops home.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in New York for meetings with visiting foreign ministers, said the U.S. contingent would continue to be reduced. While the United States intends to keep its obligations in Somalia, he said, "we are now in a transition to turn tbe matter over to the United Nations."

The United States has told the United Nations that a 1,300-man U.S. combat force stationed in Somalia should be used only for emergencies and not for routine patrolling, the New York Times reported in Wednesday editions.

The newspaper, quoting unidentified senior administration and U.N. officials, said the American request was conveyed to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali by Mr. Christopher in a letter last week.

Without setting a deadline for a full pullout, Mr. Clinton told congressional leaders he wanted the United Nations to develop a political strategy ensuring that starvation and chaos would not return to Somalia after U.N. troops withdrew.

When 28,000 troops were sent to Somalia in December by then-President George Bush, their mission was to join a U.N. force protecting delivery of food to tens of thousands of starving people. Now, however, the country is able to produce its own food again and the force is trying to restore political order.

In the meantime, 11 Americans and 24 Pakistanis are among 56 peacekeepers who have been killed and 400 U.S. Army Rangers including a handful of Delta Force commandos were sent to Somalia in August to hunt for General Aideed.

They have not found him, and the senior U.S. official told State Department correspondents here that "we bave to learn not to personalise the situation" in the African country. "It is incredible one rogue has the power to disrupt the process" of trying to stabilise the country, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In fact, the official said, the review of U.S. strategy in Somalia is examining whether to include Gen. Aideed io reconciliation talks among a score of clan leaders.

Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta said, meanwhile, "in a situation of anarchy some military presence is absolutely necessary."

But he called Gen. Aideed "a marginal phenomenon" and said "the real serious problem is tha t you have to deal with at least 12 differeot political subjects, different clans."

Poll on schedule is lifesaver

(Continued from page 1)

[illegible] computers, [illegible] somehow, have become indispensable for any se[illegible] candidate, at least in big [illegible]

[illegible] others appeared [illegible] the middle [illegible] did not entirely [illegible] their hustings and [illegible] but scaled [illegible] — to the [illegible] admitted to [illegible] offer tea and [illegible] audiences in[illegible] meals.

[illegible] that the gov[illegible] actually com[illegible] candidates [illegible] were [illegible] quarters. [illegible] than JD [illegible] meetings [illegible] major [illegible] many peo[illegible] potential [illegible] to seek [illegible]

Speaking only a few hours before what was expected to be a formal announcement that the polls were postponed, the man said he was going to file for "compensation" from the government.

"It is their fault that I spent my money on electioneering," he agreed "They should compensate me."

But his campaign manager who boasts of "having grown wise to the wave of life" thought otherwise: "Nobody can ask for compensation in this context because no one is a candidate yet in a legal sense."

"If the postponement came after the nomination period, then accepted candidates [illegible] they have a legal ground," he argued.

Conservatives estimates put the average election spending of a candidate in the major towns and cities at around JD 40,000. This does not include costs of victory celebrations for the lucky.

Candidates are happy now despite uncertainties of their chances, but there are many others who are happier, leading among them are newspapers and advertising agents who expect to reap a bonanza from election ads, again estimated to run into a few millioo dinars.

But happiest of all may be owners of those printing shops who were stuck with unpaid bills for posters which were printed but never collected by those who ordered them. "Now, I expect them to come back with sly grins [illegible] printing press. "I may even to double their bills to pay for my storage charges if not for nothing else," he said.

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3 police officers held following TV broadcast

LONDON (AFP) — Three police officers were arrested in connection with a corruption probe following a BBC Television broadcast of conversations between a drug trafficker and a police officer, Scotland Yard announced Tuesday. Officials said the arrests came after Monday evening's BBC special which stemmed from a five-month investigatioo in which reporters for the current affairs programme Panorama were able to record two hours of conversations between the drug trafficker and the police officer. The officer, named as John Donald, allegedly provided the drug trafficker in exchange for money with "sensitive" information about a regional anti-drug police unit operatiog in the south-eastern part of London. Authorities here said the corruption probe involves at least four police officers, including three who belong to the anti-drug unit, and a fourth who is part of a special squad that gathers information on drug smuggling. During one of the recorded conversations aired on television, Donald, who belongs to the drug unit, allegedly offered in exchange for £30,000 ($45,000) to give the drug trafficker a police file in which the latter was implicated. The officer is heard telling the man that the file was crucial for his conviction and that he would stage a burglary with a fellow officer in order to explain how the file disappeared. The officer allegedly also took £18,000 ($27,000) to guarantee the drug traffieker his freedom in case of arrest. He allegedly also asked tbe man for £10,000 ($15,000) for having alerted him that Scotland Yard was aware of his plans to smuggle cocaine from the United States.

Former New York judge goes to jail

BUTNER, North Carolina (AFP) — Former New York Judge Sol Wachtler, trading toga for handcuffs, was trundled off to a medium-security prison here on the start of a 15-month jail sentence for harassing an ex-lover. "He was very, very quiet," a prison official said of tbe former 62-year-old judge who pleaded guilty io March to sending tbreatening letters to Joy Silverman after she broke op their four-year relationsbip. A oationally respected jurist who had considered running for governor of his state, Judge Wachtler was interned in a psychiatric ward at the Federal Correctional Institution. He will undergo psychological evaluation to determine if be should be sent to a minimum-security jail of his choice in Pensacola, Florida. Judge Wacbtler's attorneys and psychiatrists had argued tbat his unusual behaviour towards his former lover was brought on by a bout of manic depression.

Labour defence spokesman resigns for drunkeness

LONDON (R) — The defence spokesman for Britain's opposition Labour Party has resigned shortly before pleading guilty to being drunk and assaulting a policeman outside parliament. George Foulkes, 51, a member of parliament for 14 years, was fined £1,050 ($1,580) and ordered to pay £500 ($750) costs and compensation by a central London court. The court heard Mr. Foulkes had been at a reception hosted by the Scotch Whisky Association before the incident in July and was not used to drinking whisky. He had been trying to make his way baek to parliament for a key vote wheb police stopped him. Prosecutor Anthony Connell said witnesses saw Mr. Foulkes staggering near the House of Commons before colliding with two women and falling over. Some reports at tbe time said he had tried to dance with the women. He picked himself up and collided with two more women, slightly injuring one. When police arrested Mr. Foulkes, he began to struggle and hit one officer on the chin, the court heard. "This was a disgraceful episode for a man of your prominent position to become involved in," Magistrate Ronald Bartle said.